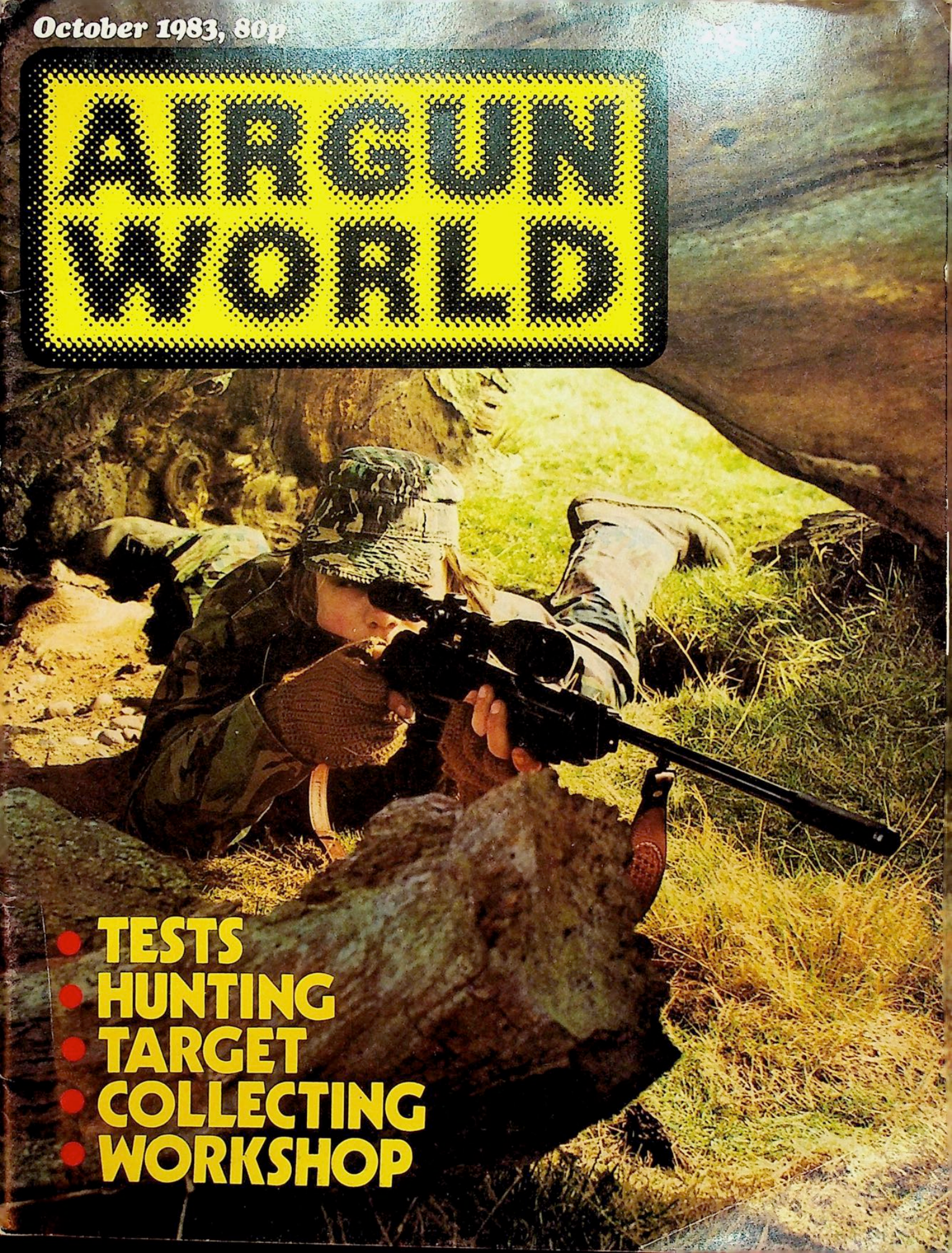


October 1983, 80p

AIRGUN WORLD

- 
- A person wearing camouflage clothing and a hat is lying on the ground in a natural setting, aiming an airgun. The person is wearing brown gloves and has a knife tucked into a belt. The background shows a rocky, grassy area with a large rock in the foreground.
- TESTS
 - HUNTING
 - TARGET
 - COLLECTING
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£14.25
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The secret of the fantastic protection it offers is in its deep, thick foam lining. Hundreds of soft foam pyramids gently and totally immobilise your precious rifle in the case, at the same time completely protecting it from accidental bumps or knocks ensuring no damage is done to the sights or zeroing.

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(NEW — GC5X with extra deep cut for scopes over 45mm)
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Illustration shows Wehrauch 35E fitted with 4 x 40 w/a scope. Will take FWB 300 with fitted diopter.



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You cannot buy a more powerful gun without a FAC. This gun is imported guaranteed by the manufacturer to be to our specification on energy rating. This is the maximum permissible below the 12ft/lb limit above which a Firearm Certificate is required.

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Snaps open and locks as solid as a one-piece blade!
Quick release catch.

We thought they had forgotten how to make quality like this! But we asked for the specification — and got it. These OPTIMA locking knives are both beautiful and durable — a pleasure to own over a lifetime of use. And that's the guarantee that we give with a full money-back offer, not only if there is ever a problem with materials or workmanship, but if you ever see a comparable knife of better value!

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LK1	1 1/4 oz	3 1/4"	2 1/2"	5/16"	—
LK3	5 1/2 oz	5 1/4"	3 1/4"	1/2"	—
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Rod Lynton in *Scopest* (Airgun World, September 3, 1981), said: "One company that has set quality as its hallmark... is Optima Leisure. They have been very successful and rightly so... my impression of the Optima range is that... they have not skimped on specifications. Optima sights are very good value... the optics are excellent and the scopes are sturdily constructed, what more could a serious shooter ask?"

Having tested all telescopic sights available, we have specified these exclusive 'OPTIMA' SIGHTS to represent the finest quality that can be bought within twice the price. We import directly from the manufacturers in Japan and consequently can offer these sights at a truly fantastic price. So don't let the price mislead you into underrating their quite exceptional quality — we are so confident that it is unbeatable that we offer a unique money back *anytime* guarantee unmatched by any other.

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All models have multi-component lenses made of Finest Quality Optic Glass — All Components Fully Coated.

Note: Prices shown are for scope only and do not include mounts.

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Fitted with **RangeMaster**™

The instant UP-DOWN Zero Shift!

You aim dead-on-centre for every shot

Now fitted to the following Optima Telescopic Sights: Models 432W - 440W - Z40W, Z45 and Z56. With this feature, adjustment of your scope from zero for varying distance or ammunition is quick, simple and sure. Having to aim high or low is a thing of the past — now you aim dead-on for every shot. How does it work? Following the comprehensive instructions given with your OPTIMA scope — 1. You zero at your favoured distance using your usual ammunition; 2. You set your RangeMaster to '0' on the dial; 3. You test fire and calibrate for varying distances and note fine adjustment for different ammunition. Then in the field — 1. You judge the distance of your target; 2. You Dial the distance on your RangeMaster, click adjusting if you change ammunition; 3. You aim dead on — and fire! It's simple, quick and fantastic. It revolutionises shooting with a scope.

THIS IS THE FABULOUS Moonlighter™

the ideal scope for night-and-day

Used by three out of the top twenty in the 1981 Field Shooting Championship, Bisley, including the Winner!

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And the now equally renowned Super Moonlighter™

As close as you can come to a night-sight without a light intensification or infra-red device. If there is any light around, the massive 56mm lens will capture it (it's over 3 times the area of a 32mm lens). The superb optics with special lens multi-coating will concentrate it and funnel it into your vision, and there's enough light captured to spread up to the full X 9 magnification and still give you a pupil-ful of image on maximum dilation on a moonlit night.

Nobody other than Optima can bring you anything else approaching this combination of lens size and quality of optical resolution at anything approaching the price.

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STANDARD

(for use with scopes up to x 40mm objective lens)

Supplied in three sizes

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Mod 11 — Fits 11mm + gun rails £6.50 pr

Mod 12 — Fits 12mm + gun rails £6.50 pr

For Weihrauch Rifles there are two special models.

Mod 9R — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 9mm gun rails

£7.65 pr

Mod 12R — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 12mm gun rails

£7.65 pr



Model 12R

HIGH ELEVATION

For scopes over x 40mm objective lens e.g. Moonlighter

Mod 9H — Fits 9mm + gun rails £7.25 pr

Mod 11H — Fits 11mm + gun rails £7.25 pr

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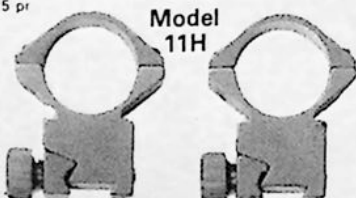
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Mod 12HR — Comp. with retaining pin. Fits 12mm gun rails

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Model 11H

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(See-through type)

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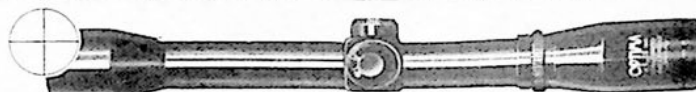
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Model 9XH

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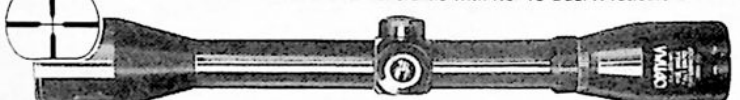
Model No.	Power x Obj. Aperture	Field of View at 100 yds (ft)	Luminosity	Eye Relief (inches)	Tube Diameter (inches)	Type of Adjustment (Clicks/inch)	Length (inches)	Weight (oz)	Lenses (pcs)
432	4 x 32	29	64.0	3.6	1	1/4	12.0	9.0	9
432W	Wide Field 4 x 32	37	64.0	3.3	1	1/4	11.8	10.5	9
440W	Wide Field 4 x 40	37	100.0	3.8	1	1/4	12.4	12.0	9
Z40W	Wide Field 3.9 x 40	42-14	177.8-19.7	3.1-2.5	1	1/4	12.9	13.4	10
Z45	3.9 x 48	37-13	225-25	3.7-2.9	1	1/4	12.8	15.8	10
Z56	3.9 x 56	35-12	348.4-38.7	3.8-3	1	1/4	13.6	26.0	10



Model 432 4 x 32 Standard with No. 3 Crosshair reticle £23.75



Model 432W 4 x 32 Panoramic with No. 15 Dual-X reticle £31.00



Model 440W 4 x 40 Panoramic with No. 15 Dual-X reticle £33.00



Model Z40W 3.9 x 40 Panoramic Zoom with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 & 9 magnification) £45.00



Model Z45 3.9 x 45 Standard Zoom with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 & 9 magnification) £54.50



Model Z56 3.9 x 56 Standard with No. 15 Dual-X reticle (Fully variable between 3 & 9 magnification) £71.50

MODELS
Z45 and Z56
with PARALEX adjustment
£5.00 extra
state model required



Note: Gun rail dimensions measured across inside of gun rail 'V' slots.

Note: Irrespective of supplier all recently made Weihrauch rifles from Serial No. 755000 upwards have 9mm gun rails. Older Weihrauchs under No. 755000 have 12mm gun rails. Please state size required when ordering for Weihrauch.



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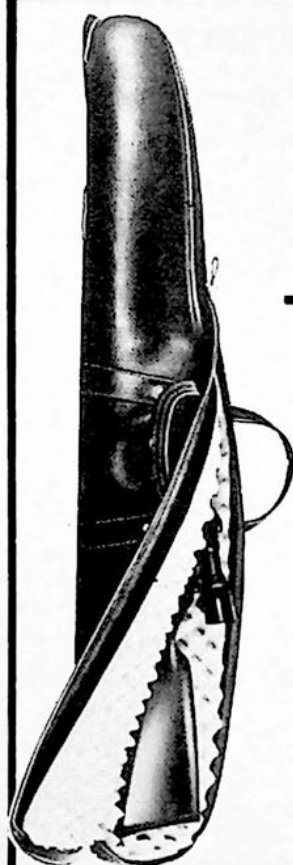
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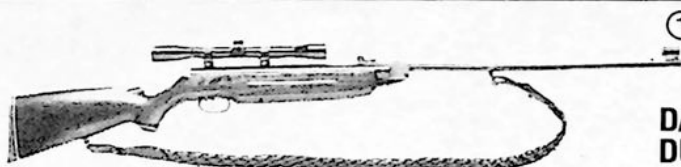


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Handbook/Manual
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Optitune Voucher
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all combinations

RECOMMENDED "ROUND-THE-CLOCK" COMBINATIONS



THE OPTIMA GC5 GUN COVER
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**DAWN-
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WEIHRAUCH HW35E .22 or .177 with 4 X 32W
RIFLESCOPE & 9R MOUNTS, GC5 GUN COVER
& GS1 PLAITED SLING

**FANTASTIC
VALUE
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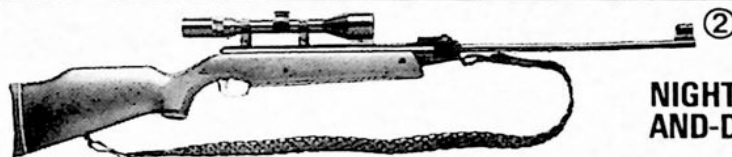
**IRRESISTIBLE
COMBO
PRICE**

£163.00

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**NIGHT-
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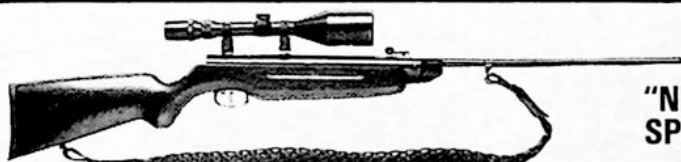
FEINWERKBAU FWB 124 (.177) or 127 (.22) with Z45
"MOONLIGHTER" RIFLESCOPE & 9H MOUNTS, GC5 GUN COVER
and GS1 PLAITED SLING
* THE COMBINATION SUPPLIED BY OPTIMA TO THE WINNER OF THE 1981
FIELD SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP, BISLEY.

£183.15

£158

A SAVING OF

£25.15



**"NIGHT
SPECIAL"**

WEIHRAUCH HW35 STD. 19" .22 or .177 with
Z56 "SUPER MOONLIGHTER" RIFLESCOPE &
9XHR MOUNTS, GC5 GUN COVER and GS1
PLAITED SLING

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A SAVING OF

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OTHER POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS

(Gun cover and sling included).

L/H Versions: HW35E add £10.00

FWB 124/127 & HW80 add £8.00

		DAWN-TO-DUSK	NIGHT-AND-DAY	NIGHT SPECIAL
		OPTIMA 4 X 32W SCOPE	OPTIMA Z45 "MOONLIGHTER"	OPTIMA Z56 "SUPER MOONLIGHTER"
WEIHRAUCH HW35 E	.177 or .22	① £145	£165	£186
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RARE PISTOLS

Very fine and rare Cogswell & Harrison "Certus" .177 short barrel pistol, in almost as new condition except for rear sight blade missing and broken main spring, in its original wood and covered case, green baised lined, with cleaning rod, slug box, new washers No. 212 **P.O.A.**

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Very rare "Titan" long barrel pistol, 1st Model serial No. 13 (1920), .177 9/4" Barsome finish with nice patina, wood grips. **£325**

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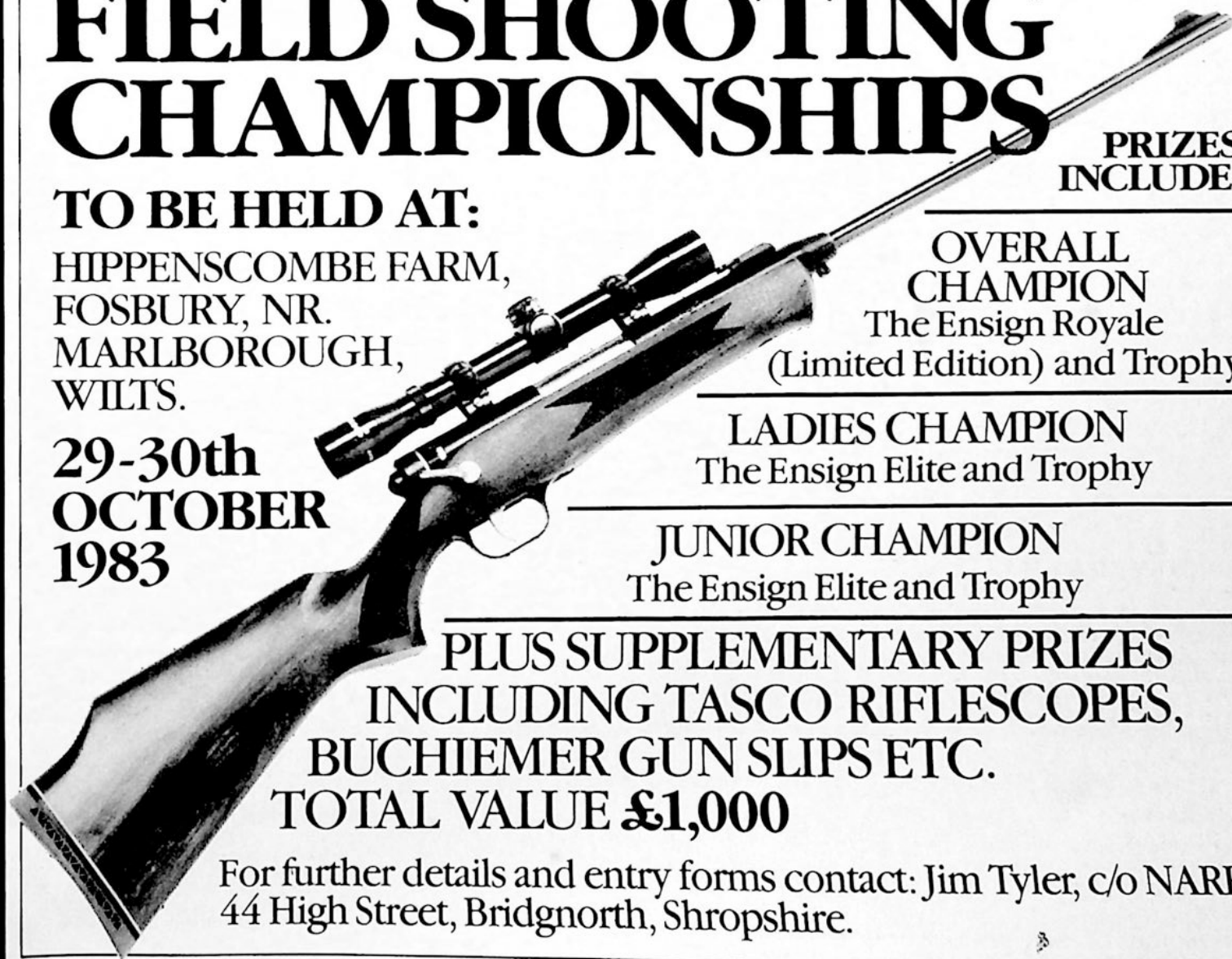
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The Editor says ...



THIS IS the 75th issue of *Airgun World* that I have edited since helping to launch the magazine back in 1977.

Since we are exactly three-quarters of the way to our century, perhaps this is a good moment to look back at the changes we have seen during that time — and some of the exciting things in store for the future.

It seems to me that airguns have come on in leaps and bounds since those far-off days in 1977. For instance, I remember that Geoff Boxall's first *Gun Test* was on the Webley Hawk Mk. III — and most of us think of that as practically a vintage rifle these days!

We witnessed plenty of innovations during those early years, such as the launch of BSA's 'S' range of rifles, as airgunners became more sophisticated in their tastes and more demanding in what they wanted.

Tuning was almost unknown in 1977, too, whereas it is an important facet of airgunning today. Several companies specialise in this valuable service now, guaranteeing airgunners the chance to own rifles that are as powerful and accurate as can be.

We've seen some sad times, too, of course, including the closure of several companies during the early Eighties as the economic recession hit the gun trade — just as it did so many areas of British business.

For a time there was a lull in the development of new air weapons — but perhaps we had all been spoilt by the surge of new guns during *Airgun World's* early years.

That quiet period now seems to be over, though, and I believe we are in the middle of an important era of airgun development.

During the past year we've seen the launch of the revolutionary Theoben Sirocco rifle — and within the next few weeks the Ensign Elite, another unique sporting rifle, will be reaching the gunshops, too.

What is particularly encouraging is that both these guns are British — and both are made by companies new to the airgun scene.

It's good to know that Britain is in the forefront of airgun development — and I reckon we're in for an exciting year or two as *Airgun World* moves on to its century of issues.

Paul Dobson

AIRGUN WORLD

Volume 7 Issue No. 3

October 1983

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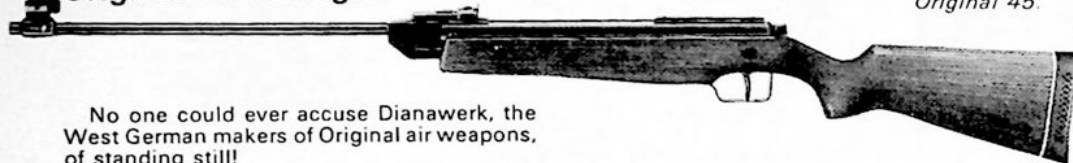
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COVER PHOTO: JOHN DARLING.

Field shooting with an air rifle in late summer.

AIRGUN SCENE

Original 45 Changes



The improved Original 45.

No one could ever accuse Dianawerk, the West German makers of Original air weapons, of standing still!

They have recently made a number of modifications to their classy Original 45 hunting rifle which, they believe, will keep it at the head of the market for years to come.

Among the changes are a new foresight housing, fresh piston washer arrangement,

and an improved trigger lever and safety latch.

'Air rifles certainly take a pounding from British airgunners', admits Alan Chambers of Frank Dyke & Co., who import the Original range to the U.K., 'but no airgun in the world is in the same super class as the Original 45'.

Pick a Pellet

Most airgunners like to try different brands of pellet before settling on the one that is most compatible with their gun — but it can be expensive buying full tins of each different type.

That's why Harrison's Matchshots have launched a special selector pack containing a good handful of six different types of pellet for just £2.30 including postage.

The selector pack is available in either .22 or .177 calibre and comes in three different categories — field, target and general purpose — so you can choose whichever is most appropriate to your own form of airgunning.

The .22 field pack, for instance, contains a total of 150 pellets, 25 of each of the following types — RWS Superpoint, H & N Pointed, H & N Baracuda, H & N semi-wadcutter, Scalemead Hustler and Scalemead Harrier.

'There is such a bewildering array of airgun ammunition available today that the average shooter just doesn't know where to start', says Mr. S. Harrison, who devised the selector pack. 'I felt people needed a cheap way of trying out the different pellets that were most appropriate to their type of shooting.'

'I maintain that you won't get the best unless you ask for it — and you can't ask for it unless you know what it is. I hope the selector pack will help'.

You can order the selector pack, which comes complete with a handy black-and-gold target card, from Harrison's Matchshots, 11 Albert Terrace, Glasshouses, Harrogate, Yorkshire, (tel: Harrogate 711548).

Target Championships

The 10th British Air Rifle and Pistol Championships take place at the National Sports Centre for Wales in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, from October 14 to 16.

Airgun World's Ian Law will be among the competitors — his exclusive report on the year's top target meeting will be included in the December issue of *Airgun World*.

There is still time to enter this great match competition if you haven't yet done so — but you'll have to hurry because entries close on September 26.

Galway Winners

Hundreds of readers entered the great Galway competition in our August issue — and many of you correctly identified the six fine hunting rifles from Weihrauch and Sharp that were pictured.

The first correct entry to be drawn out of the hat, though, came from Mr. G. Starke of Woolwich in London — who wins the terrific first prize of a Weihrauch HW80, specially finished by Galway Silencers, and Tasco 4 x 40 scope, worth £165.

Second prize of a Sharp Ace, worth £125, goes to Mr. P. Beck of Cheltenham.

The correct solution was: 1. HW55, 2. Ace, 3. Victory, 4. HW35, 5. Innova, 6. HW50.

Our prize-winners are as follows:

Weihrauch HW80 with Tasco scope: G. Starke, London. Sharp Ace: P. Beck, Cheltenham. Six Galway silencers: J. Gracey, Merseyside; G. Park, Scotland; B. Davis, Baldock; John Hughes, Denbigh; Borys Melnyczuk, King's Lynn; James Caley, King's Lynn.

Marathon Man

Airgun World writer Ian Law will be taking off his target glove and putting on his running shoes on October 9 when he competes in the Windsor Half-Marathon.

Ian has agreed to enter this testing 13-mile race around Windsor Park in aid of charity — and every penny that he raises will go to disabled airgun shooters.

If you can afford to sponsor Ian Law at just 10p per mile — that means your maximum outlay is only £1.30 if Ian completes the course — please fill in the form below and send it to *Airgun World* before the day of the race. All donations will be most gratefully received.

Ian has also agreed to fire 10 shots at a 10-metre card before he starts the race — and another 10 if and when he finishes!

It will be fascinating to see whether a 13-mile run affects Ian's group sizes. Most of us probably wouldn't be able to hit the target at all after that kind of exercise — but we'll let you know how he makes out in a forthcoming issue.

SPONSORSHIP FORM

I agree to sponsor Ian Law for 10p per mile in the 1983 Windsor Half-Marathon. I understand that all monies raised will be donated to disabled airgunners and that my maximum outlay is £1.30.

Name _____

Address _____

Please send this form to *Airgun World*, Marathon Man, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1BG.

Match This!



The Original 75UT01 match rifle.

Here is the new Original 75UT01, the great new match rifle from the famous West German stable. We hope to review it in *Airgun World* soon.

New Webley Factory



The new Webley factory.

Here is the first photo of Webley & Scott's modern new factory in Birmingham. It covers 45,000 square feet and is the centre where Webley's famous air rifles and pistols are designed and made before being sent all over the world.

Webley's move to the new factory in the

Frankley district of Birmingham has given them the opportunity to re-plan the layout and production of their operation, resulting in extra efficiency and productivity.

They will be employing 75 people in the new premises — and expect to export nearly half of the guns that they make there this year.

I WASN'T at all surprised to read that *Airgun World* writer Chris Wright's family think that he's nuts! In fact, I was quite relieved in a way — because my family think I am, too!

Chris is mainly a target shooting nut, of course — and he ought to consider himself jolly lucky. As a field shooting nut, I continually catch it in the neck from the anti-blood sports branch of my family!

'How would you like it if those rabbits were armed and started shooting back, Dad? I bet you wouldn't be quite so keen to creep around the woods at night!'

There's no answer to that one — and the comment came from my teenage daughter, Debbie, who was shooting one-inch groups on a 30-yard range when she was only nine years old.

I have to admit that there is a whole world of difference between target shooting and shooting live animals. At least, I think there is!

Another member of my family doesn't agree. 'Guns were made to kill', he says. 'It doesn't make any difference what you're shooting at. Anyway, how about those targets with animals and birds printed on them?'

All this set me thinking — and thank goodness we have *Country Gun* columnist Arthur Shepherd to lend a reasoned and well-balanced voice to the field shooting argument.

Arthur always seems to come out with the sort of clearcut and sensible statements in support of shooting that I can never put down on paper myself.

Almost every month I read his article and think: 'Good heavens, that's exactly right. I could have written that myself'.

I didn't, though, and Arthur Shepherd did. God bless him — and long may his work continue to grace the pages of *Airgun World* and be the responsible, instructive and humanitarian influence that it is!

My daughter hadn't read any of Arthur's articles, though. It took the local newspaper to make her see sense about field shooting!

Monster Rats Hit Village screamed the headlines, and a couple of people living near us were bitten quite badly by the giant rodents. That did it!

'Those are the things you want to shoot, Dad', she surprised me by saying. 'I'd shoot them myself given half the chance!'

There you are — there's a thinking youngster who had done some target shooting but who didn't agree with killing in the field until she was presented with a really valid reason for doing so.

I respect her for that enormously, much more so than if she had drifted automatically into field shooting just because her father and brother are dedicated airgun hunters.

I think this is the point that Arthur Shepherd is constantly making — that shooting live quarry should never be undertaken lightly, but only when there is a good reason for it.

There are plenty of good reasons — protecting crops or other species, or providing food for your family, for instance. You should never shoot anything simply for the satisfaction of seeing it fall



David Lane's son, Stephen, tests the new Panorama scope.

Nuts!

Shooting crazy — that's David Lane

dead on the ground, however.

Hot on the heels of Debbie's decision to go rat shooting came some more good news. A new telescopic sight with an unusual specification arrived through the post.

It was a Panorama 4-12 X 40 wide-angle scope with parallax and focusing adjustment facilities — a truly magnificent beast!

A friend of mine, who is an expert in optical equipment, once told me that you could almost judge the quality of an

instrument by its 'feel'. If it's solid and well-balanced and not fragile, then it's more likely to be good than mediocre.

Well, the Panorama high power scope is really solid. Plenty of brass has been used in its construction and it gives you the feeling that it won't wear out in a hurry.

No one needs 12X magnification to go airgun shooting, of course, but it's an enormous help in spotting quarry three-quarters of a mile away when you're out shooting on the Downs. It's fascinating, too, to be able to observe different species in minute detail.

Those are just two of this scope's advantages over other models. What's more, its optics are sparklingly clear with no 'flare' and superbly coated, and its image has a depth and resolution that you don't normally find on a £60 scope.

Mounted on my son Stephen's Original 50T01, the scope makes a formidable combination. It is great value for money — and I hope that it will help Stephen shoot a few monster rats when we next visit the disused tip outside the village.

Win the airgun of

YOU CAN WIN the airgun of your dreams in this month's sensational *Airgun World* competition.

It doesn't matter whether you dream of owning a powerful hunting rifle or a tip-top target weapon — because you can choose your own first prize in this month's extra special competition!

Our winner really will be spoilt for choice — and we wouldn't be surprised if it took him longer to decide which gun to choose than to answer the questions in our competition!

Field shooters will be able to choose between the best sporting rifles from any of Britain's leading manufacturers — such as Webley & Scott, BSA and Sterling. All those guns will be fitted with a first-class scope, too.

So too will any of the crack West German sporting rifles that you might choose — the Weihrauch HW80, Original 45, Feinwerkbau Sport, BSF B55 or Anschütz 335.

You might prefer a Theoben Sirocco, the Airgun of the Year 1983 — or and Ensign Elite, the tremendous new cartridge air rifle that has only just reached the gunshops. The choice is yours!

Pneumatic enthusiasts will have the chance to choose from the wide range of scoped pump-ups available — including the new Sharp Ace. If you have a firearms certificate, you could even select the Bushmaster CO₂ rifle from Galway that Arthur Shepherd features in this month's *Country Gun* article.

Match shooters will set their sights on a top target rifle — perhaps the Feinwerkbau 300SU, the Walther LGR or Original 75UT.

You don't have to choose a rifle either. If you're a pistol shooter, you can select from one of the wide range of match pistols on the market.

Yes, this is the competition to end all competitions! Don't delay — enter today!

FIRST PRIZE . . . The airgun of your dreams. You can choose from any air rifle or pistol currently available — and we shall supply it with a super scope if stated above. **VALUE . . . The sky's the limit!**

CONSOLATION PRIZES . . . We shall award 10 consolation prizes of attractive *Airgun World* T-shirts, worth £3.75 each.

HOW TO ENTER

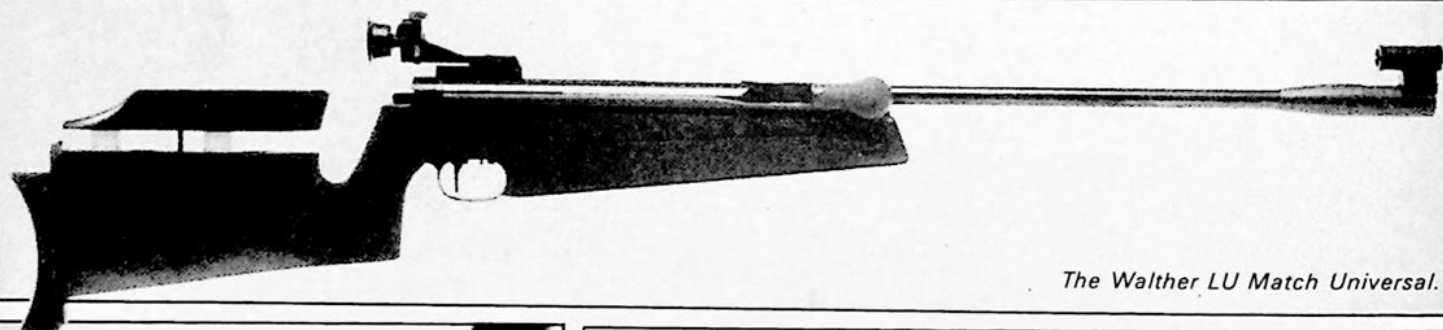
All you have to do to win the airgun of your dreams is to answer the questions on the entry form correctly.

Then send your completed entry form (or photocopy or separate sheet of paper if you prefer) to **Airgun World Dreams Competition, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1BG.**

Don't forget to include a cheque or postal order for 70p, payable to *Airgun World*, and to say on your entry form which gun you would like as your prize. Also indicate your T-shirt size in case you win a consolation prize.

The closing date for entries is **Monday October 17** — and the correct solution and the prize-winners' names will be published in our December issue.

In the event of a tie, the winners' names will be drawn from a hat.



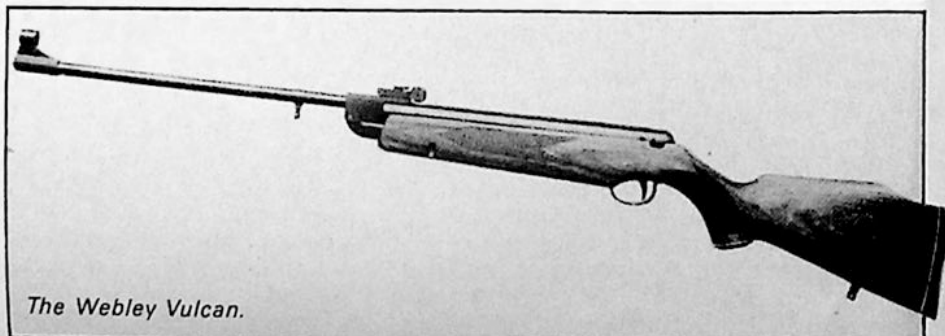
The Walther LU Match Universal.



The new Ensign Elite.



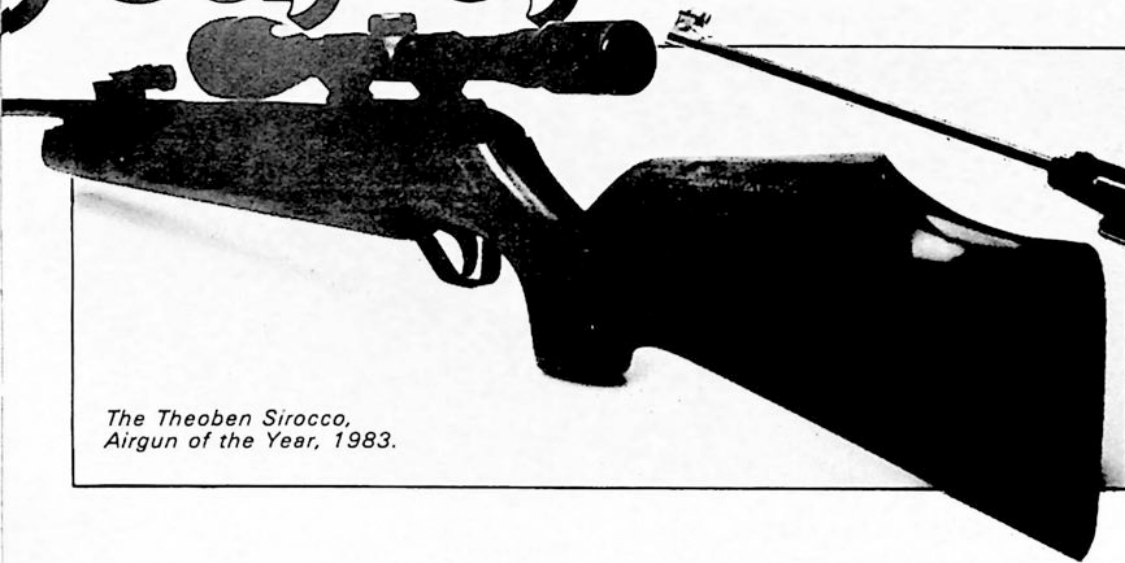
The Original 45.



The Webley Vulcan.

your dreams!

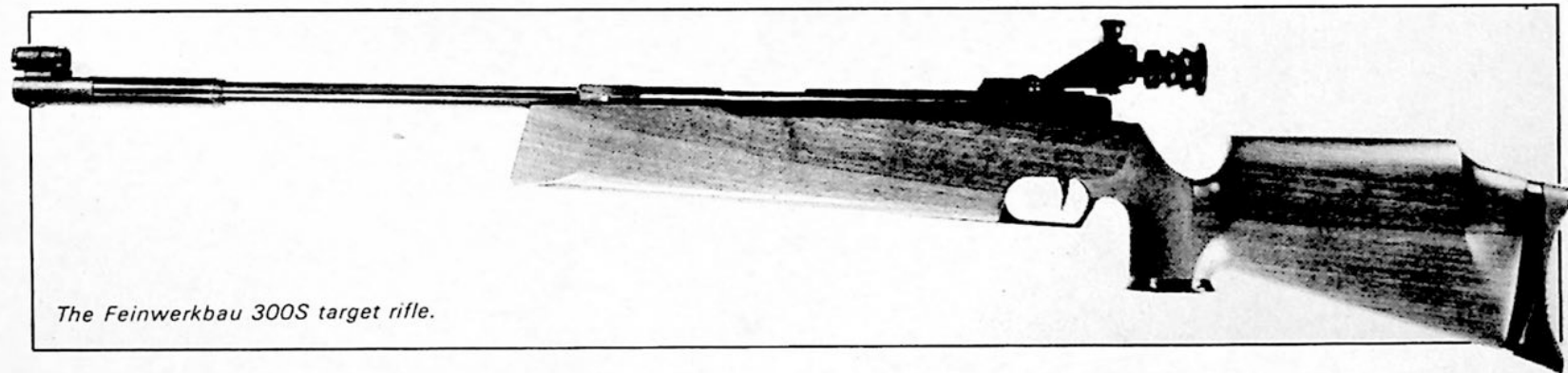
CHOOSE
YOUR OWN
FIRST PRIZE



*The Theoben Sirocco,
Airgun of the Year, 1983.*



The Feinwerkbau Sport.



The Feinwerkbau 300S target rifle.

ENTRY FORM

1. Match the names of these top foreign airguns with the companies that import them to the U.K.

Feinwerkbau
Original
Walther
Weihrauch
Crosman

Frank Dyke & Co
Hull Cartridge Co.
Coleman
Accuracy International
A.S.I.

Gun

Importer

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Which top British airgun manufacturer recently moved premises — but stayed within the same city?

3. Which air rifle won our Airgun of the Year poll in 1982?

4. Which company's air rifles carry the prefix HW?

5. Which air rifles are called Dianas in their country of manufacture — but are known by another name in Britain?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No. _____

My dream airgun is the _____

Specify T-shirt size: Large/Medium/Small _____

If you are under 17, an adult must countersign your entry and give his/her name and address: _____

I enclose a cheque/P.O. to the value of 70p, made payable to *Airgun World*.

Fill in the entr form clearly and send it to: **Airgun World Dreams Competition, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1BG.**
Closing date for entries: **October 17, 1983.**

If you don't want to spoil your copy of *Airgun World* by cutting out this form, write your entry on a separate sheet of paper.

Gerald Cardew solves . . .

A POWER

IT'S SURPRISING just how many air rifles aren't as powerful as they should be. Their owners buy them, expecting them to push out a sturdy 12 ft. lbs. — only to find that they don't begin to measure up to expectations. Here is the story of one of them.

The .22 calibre Weihrauch HW35 arrived at my door by post with a note saying that it had been bought second-hand, but that its new owner was extremely disappointed with its performance.

I thought I'd make sure, so I tried it over the chronograph with Wasp pellets. This showed that it had a muzzle velocity of 450 f.p.s. — which is quite a normal figure for a rifle that needs an overhaul.

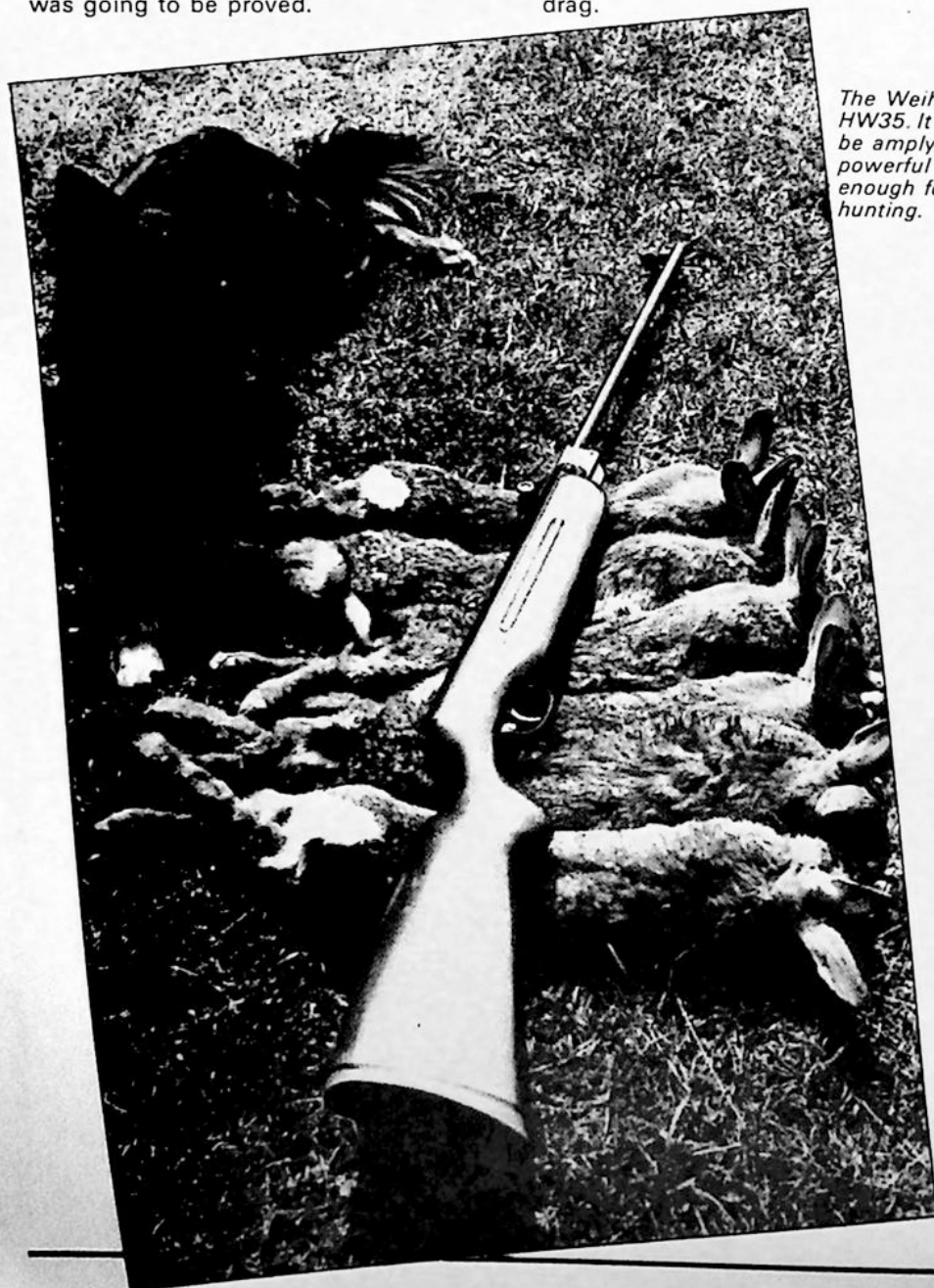
Most Weihrauch HW35's will give around 12 ft. lbs. muzzle energy without needing to be asked twice, so I assumed that this would be just another straightforward job. Little did I know how wrong I was going to be proved.

I didn't notice anything unusual when I stripped the weapon. Everything was in average condition, except that some previous owner had increased the piston stroke by reducing the head thickness by $\frac{1}{8}$ in.

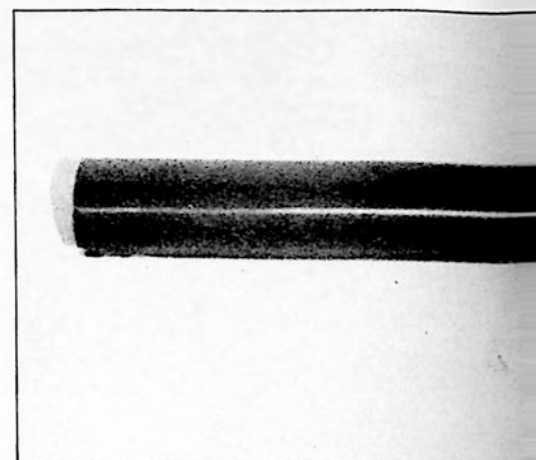
This didn't seem to be a worthwhile exercise since $\frac{1}{8}$ in. is nothing compared to the total stroke length, so I rebuilt the head to standard dimensions and fitted a new leather head.

I made sure that the leather was free to breathe, though, and that it didn't protrude in front of the mounting nut and support ring. I also fitted a nylon ring to the tail of the piston because it had a soft tail of the type that always wears badly.

While I had the piston out, I also reduced its central body diameter to encourage correct lubrication and fuel feed, as well as reducing the braking effect on the piston caused by grease drag.



The Weihrauch HW35. It should be amply powerful enough for hunting.



Maybe the cylinder wasn't as good as it had looked.

I immediately rebuilt the weapon, fitting a fresh spring at the same time, and returned it to the chronograph. I was horrified to find that the rifle's power had now dropped to 250 f.p.s.

This was impossible! I couldn't believe it! The problem must be in the chronograph! But no — a few shots over the chrono with another rifle soon confirmed that all was well in that department.

I decided that the cylinder might not be as good as it had looked, so I stripped the rifle once again and checked the bore with a telescopic gauge and micrometer.

Here I struck gold — or so I thought. The very last half inch of the bore was one thousandth of an inch smaller than the rest.

I convinced myself that since the leather of the piston head would already be compressed solid by the high pressure air when it reached that point in the bore, then it would be jammed tight when it entered the reduced diameter until the pressure was reduced by the pellet departing at low velocity.

All I would have to do to cure the problem would be to hone out the cylinder and re-polish it. Then all would be well. I set to work.

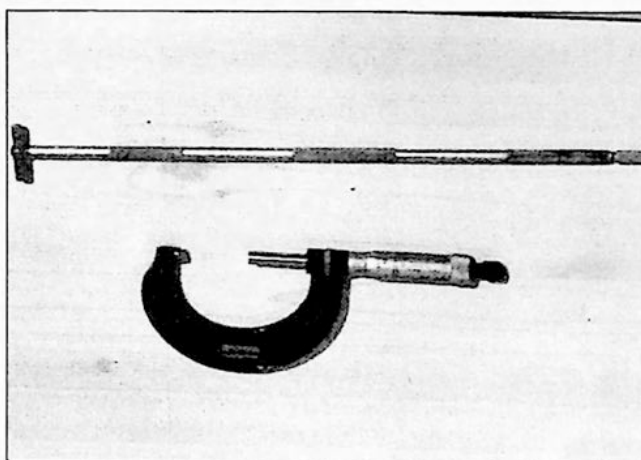
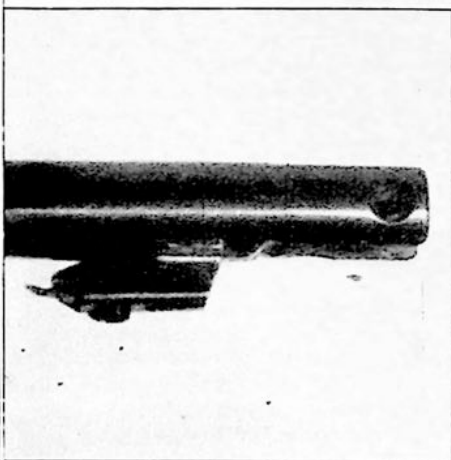
The trouble was that this didn't solve the problem after all. True, the rifle's velocity increased by 100 f.p.s., but it was still way below what it should have been. It was still less than it had been when the gun arrived at my front door, in fact.

Then another idea struck me — something I should have checked earlier. Was the bore of the barrel out of line with the transfer port?

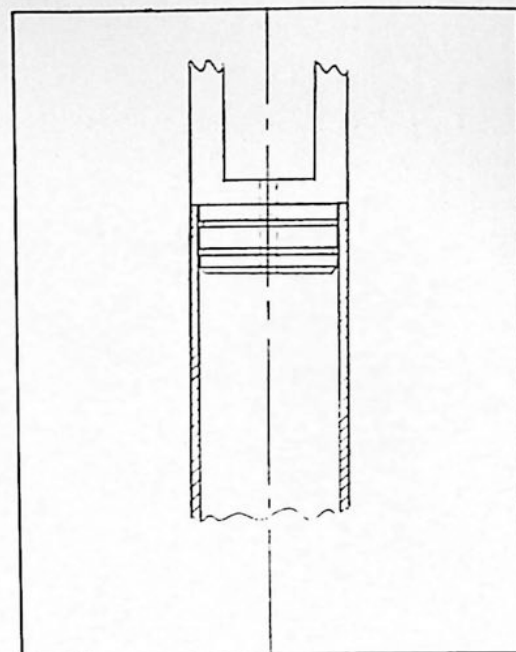
I dismantled the gun once again, and found that it was — but only slightly. Furthermore, the transfer port was marginally larger than standard.

As a drowning man will clutch at straws, so I clutched at these errors. I was fast drowning in a sea of frustration and disbelief myself.

PROBLEM



Gerald Cardew's telescopic gauge and micrometer.



An artist's impression of the cross section through the breech plug of the HW35.

It didn't take me long to re-position the correctly sized port and rebuild the gun — but my hopes were dashed. Perhaps I should have expected them to be, because I might have known that such small errors could never have caused this monster problem.

I decided that the time had come to adopt another tack altogether — and try to creep up on the enemy from behind!

First, I swapped the barrel with the one from own rifle — only to find that it made no difference to the velocity. The barrel obviously wasn't causing the problem.

Changing the barrels back and swapping over the pistons didn't alter things either. This proved that the problem lay with the cylinder. What could be causing it, though?

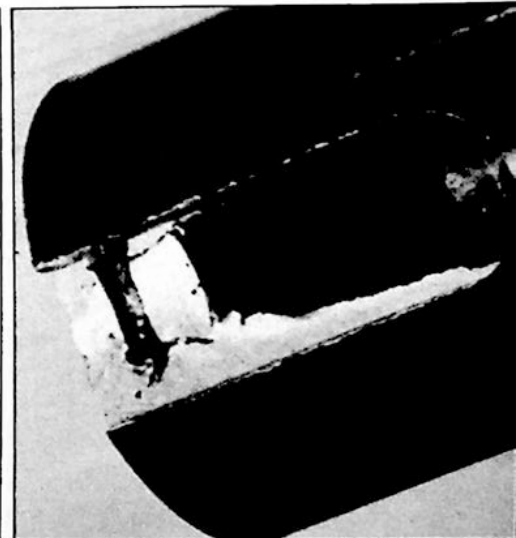
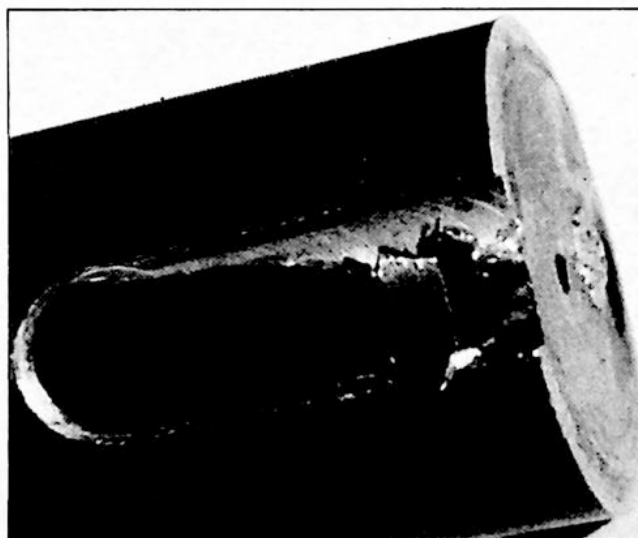
I carefully examined the port area and found that the end plug had a larger than usual chamfer, which produced an unnecessary lost volume. Could this be the cause of the trouble? It seemed too small a factor to lead to such a big loss of velocity, however.

Maybe the chamfer was causing a turbulence in the airflow, though, restricting its passage into the port. No, that was too complicated a theory.

Then another idea struck me. Perhaps Weihrauch had made the end plug with one or two grooves machined in it to carry the brazing spelter or silver solder together with its associated flux. The whole assembly would then be heated to run the solder and produce a firm joint.

Suppose all the joint material were to run towards the breech end, though, and none of it go to the cylinder side of the groove. A large cavity would be formed by the now empty groove, which might swallow up all the high pressure air, thus reducing the rifle's power considerably. Here was another straw for me to grasp!

Since I couldn't prove that the cavity existed, there was only one thing to do. I had to assume that it was there and treat



Two views of the faulty Weihrauch cylinder.

it accordingly.

First, I washed out the cylinder with carbon tetrachloride, then temporarily blocked up the port and poured synthetic resin into the cylinder.

Next, I placed the whole thing upright in a vacuum cylinder and sucked out all the air, the idea being that the resin would be drawn into the cavity once the vacuum was released.

After about 15 minutes I released the vacuum and fitted the piston, forcing it down on the compressed air within the cylinder in order to drive the liquid resin further into the presumed cavity.

Twenty-four hours later I released the piston, unblocked the port and re-assembled the rifle. Success! My gamble had paid off — and the rifle produced the power that I expect from a Weihrauch HW35.

That was it, then. The entire problem had been caused by a fault that I couldn't see.

Then another idea occurred to me. I still had the remains of a cylinder which I could destroy some more in order to check my theory.

I had bought this cylinder some time ago, but I had only wanted the major part of the breech end. Having cut this away, I still had the majority of the cylinder and part of the end plug with at least one of the grooves still in it.

I promptly milled a slot into the joint to see what was there — and there it was, an empty circular groove with little evidence of jointing material on the cylinder side.

One wonders about other HW35 rifles. Years ago I remember chatting to Eddie Barber about the unpredictability of this Weihrauch.

Eddie told me that he had once stayed up all night interchanging parts between a good one and a bad one. In the end he came to the conclusion that the trouble lay in the cylinder, but he wasn't sure why. Perhaps I've found the answer!



It's hard to spot grey squirrels in summer.

MANY PEOPLE have tried to convince me that airgun hunting is a summer sport. How this idea came about I'll never know, though — because those lazy, hazy summer months are actually the worst time of year for field shooting!

Squirrels, woodpigeon and corvids can easily dive for cover into the ample foliage at the first sign of danger, and they are almost certain to escape from even the most experienced airgunner.

You'll probably never see them again unless they're put up and you shoot them on the move, which is completely out of the question for an airgunner, of course.

A patient hunter may decide to lie in wait in the woods, but any experienced airgunner will tell you that you'll attract enough winged insects to 'eat you alive' if you do!

Away from the woods and out in the fields, corn, oilseed rape, potatoes and other crops provide the ideal cover for rabbits to run freely during the daylight hours without a care in the world.

Even if you're lucky enough to find an

open patch of ground, you'll soon find insects crawling all over you if you stay in the same place long enough.

The sensible shooter will set out on his hunting trip either very early or very late in the day during summer, when the

conditions are cool and pleasant and the insects aren't so easily agitated.

It's still worth taking an insect repellent such as 'Jungle Formula', which you can buy at most gunshops and the BASC shop, though.

Things are very different at this time of year, of course. The harvest has opened up huge areas where the corn crops once stood, and the undergrowth in the woods has died down considerably.

The daylight hours have dropped, too, as you will no doubt have noticed. Instead of 16 hours of daylight, there are now only 12 — which forces the birds to spend most of their day feeding and exposing themselves to airgunners.

By the end of next month there will be only 8½ hours of daylight each day by my reckoning, so airgunners should enjoy their best sport of the year.

The pheasant season opens on October 1 and my thoughts will turn to controlling the predators that could endanger next year's pheasant breeding season — particularly the grey squirrel, magpie, jay and crow.

Pheasant shooting is banned on Sundays, of course, which gives airgun hunters the ideal opportunity to teach the game shot a lesson or two about pest control.

A friend of mine, Greg Beckley, regularly shoots on Sundays and he recently convinced his local gamekeeper that an airgun has an important role to play in vermin control.

Greg returned from his first outing with three squirrels' tails hanging from his belt — and the gamekeeper soon changed his sceptical view about air rifles!

Besides helping to control the vermin, airgunners also provide an extra pair of eyes on a shoot and can help a gamekeeper by spotting poachers. Camouflage is second nature to an airgun hunter, so we're far more likely to catch a poacher than most people.

Some shoot owners don't like having anyone near their ground for fear of driving the game to ground, but there are two schools of thought on this subject.

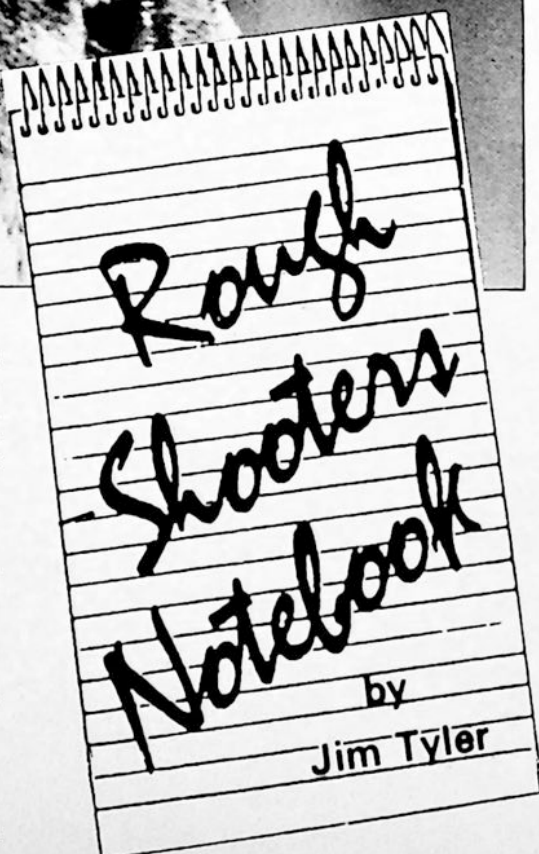
Other land owners believe that the birds need stirring up a little, and some even send a spaniel ahead of them on feeding trips to flush out the birds!

It's worth trying to obtain permission to hunt on a game shoot, but bear in mind that the owner or keeper won't allow just anyone to shoot on their land.

They will want to know and trust you, which is hardly surprising considering the amount of time and money they have put into rearing a good stock of pheasants.

This is the ideal time of year to try to obtain permission to hunt over a game shoot, and the best way of going about it is to work as a beater at your local shoot. A beater, for those of you who don't know, is someone who drives the game birds towards the guns.

He usually carries a stick to beat the cover and scare the birds out into the open, and a squad of beaters will work in a line so that the birds fly in the correct direction.



Woebetide any beater who drops out of line and lets a bird fly through the gap! The unfortunate culprit is sure to feel the sharp edge of the keeper's tongue.

If you have a well-trained retriever — and I mean well-trained — so much the better. Once a bird has been shot, your dog can fetch it — but only after the keeper has given his permission.

Your dog needs to be something of a paragon for this work, though. He must be trained to retrieve at a considerable distance and, if he puts up a rabbit in the process, he must ignore it. That's no easy task for any dog!

Airgunners who live in the country will have no trouble in finding their nearest game shoot, but town and city dwellers could have their work cut out.

If I were you, I'd start by placing a card in the window of your local gunshop, saying that you'd like to act as a beater and giving your telephone number. You just might strike lucky!

An advertisement in *Shooting Times* might do the trick, too — but don't forget to say where you live and give a telephone number just in case a game-keeper is let down at the last moment.

Rabbits are running amok over farmland at the moment because of last year's mild winter which encouraged almost non-stop breeding! Airgunners are shooting more rabbits than ever — so much so that they sometimes don't know what to do with them.

Never throw a rabbit away, though. Do as I do and give them to your local Old Age Pensioners Society. They'll be very much appreciated, I promise you.

Eddie Barber recently said that rabbits were more 'street wise' in some parts of the country than in others — but judging by some of the tales I've heard, the creatures in some regions must be either suicidal or just plain stupid!

What Eddie says is quite true, though, and I've even found variations between burries, let alone counties!

Rabbits who live near stock, for instance, are used to ground vibrations and seeing large 'shapes' moving around in the distance, and the hunter has a head-start in this sort of terrain.

It's a completely different story on arable land, though. Rabbits aren't used to vibrations there, and they will scatter

Why not try your luck as a beater? It might earn you permission to shoot.



Top: Rabbits are running amok at the moment. Above: Woodpigeon on their way to a feeding ground.

quickly if they feel the slightest tremor from an approaching airgunner.

The easiest touch of all is to hunt over land that hasn't been shot on for a long time. The rabbits possess a fatal innocence — just like a rabbit that is picked up in the beam of a lamp for the first time.

The rabbits near where I live in

Worcestershire are a pretty wily crew! The sound made by a pellet as it rushes through the air and strikes home is enough to convince my local bunnies that they would be safer back in their burry!

GUN TEST

Photos by
Jolyon
Bambridge

The

THE ITALIANS make more guns than most European countries, but they have always lagged behind when it comes to sporting air rifles — and they have never produced one until now.

I heard a rumour some years ago that an Italian manufacturer was building a field shooting rifle — but it seems that he never came up with the goods.

I was pleasantly surprised, therefore, to learn that Precision Arms, of Paddock Wood in Kent, have started to distribute an Italian air rifle called the Brema, which is made by a company based in Italy's shotgun making centre, Brescia.

My next surprise came when I saw the guns. At first glance the Brema rifles look remarkably like the Originals — and they even carry the same model numbers as this popular West German range.

Brema actually produce four air rifles — the models 23, 25, 27 and 35 — and I've tested the Brema 35 for this month's *Airgun World*.

Having said that the Brema resembles the Original, I should quickly add that is where the similarity stops. Unfor-

tunately, although the stocks are reasonably well finished, the Brema's performance leaves quite a bit to be desired — and the trigger lets the gun down, in particular.

I should say here that I don't know whether I'm unlucky enough to be sent the occasional rogue rifle — but I should have thought it unlikely. It is possible, though, so you should always check any malfunctions that I report by visiting your local gunshop and handling the rifles yourself.

Back to the Brema, which is a good looking rifle with an attractive price to match. On the basis that you won't get the world if you don't pay the earth, I'd say that the Brema rifles are pretty good value for money, in fact, assuming that you're looking for a fairly modestly priced gun.

The model 35 is Brema's top-of-the-range rifle, and it costs just £49.99 including VAT.

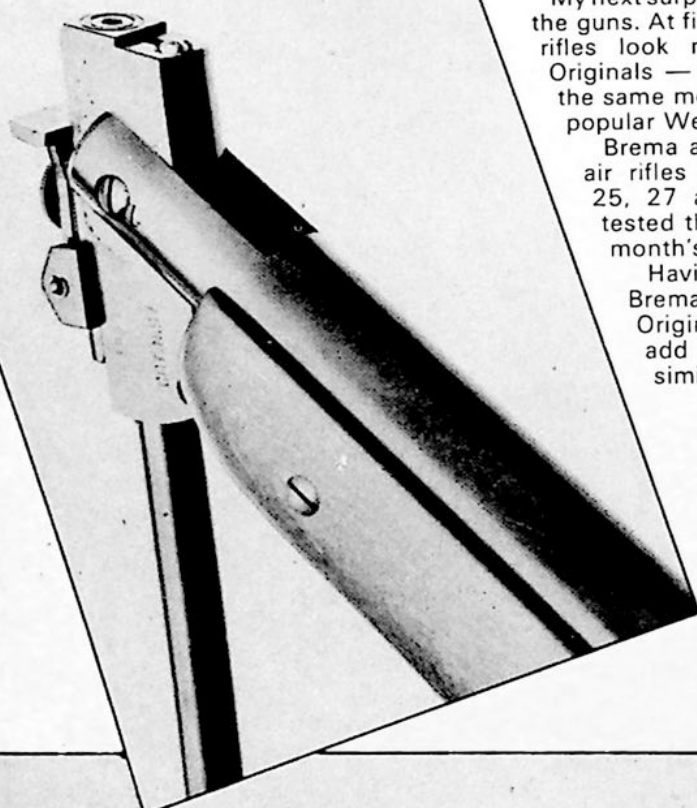
It certainly looks attractive and it's a full-sized rifle that is billed as an all-rounder. That's to say that the .177 should be accurate enough for target shooting and that the .22 makes a reasonable sporting rifle.

The snag is that the rifle takes a long time to settle down, and the gun I tested was still dieselling continuously after more than 500 shots.

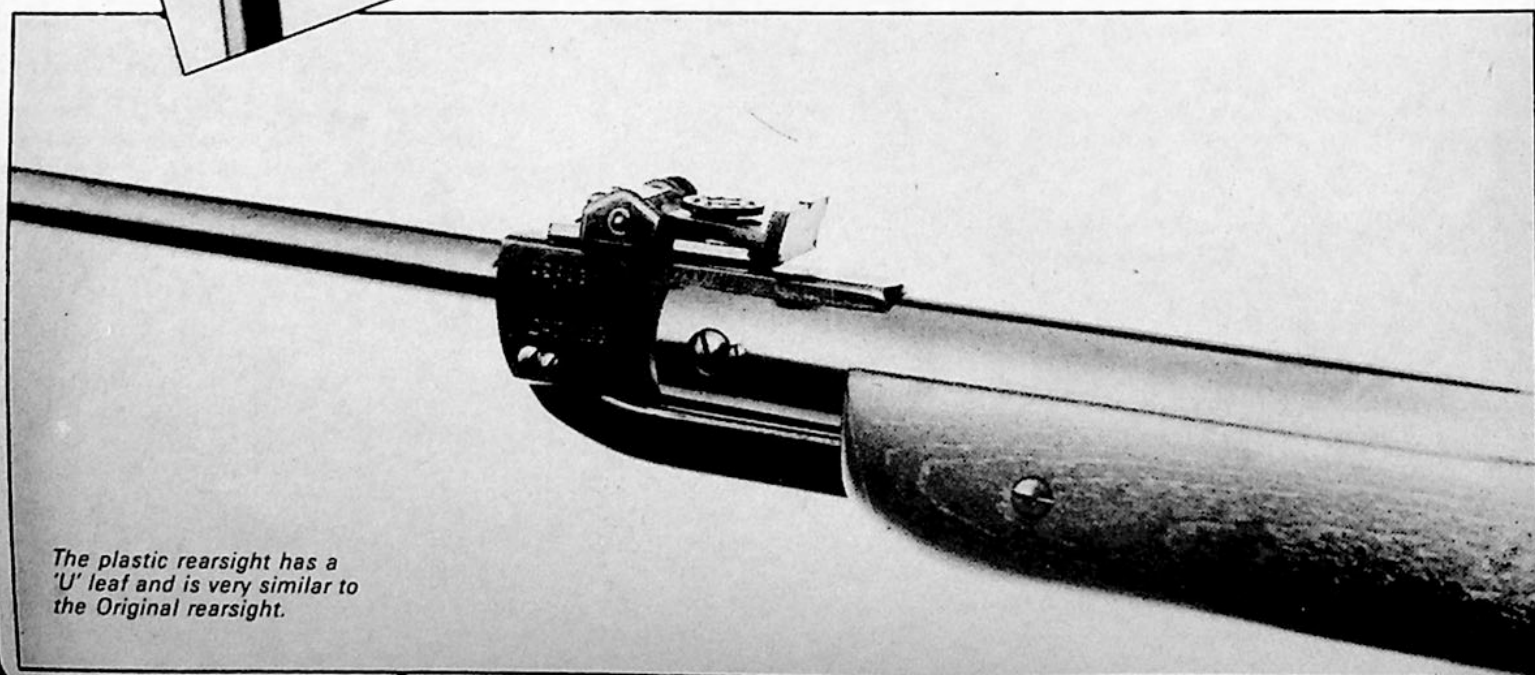
This doesn't help accuracy at all, of course, and I found it almost impossible to zero the sights on test. I imagine that a stripdown or service would solve the problem more quickly, however.

Anyone who buys a Brema may find this fault, if I can call it that, rather annoying — and if you're planning to use the Brema 35 for target work, I'd forget it.

The trigger pull on the rifle I tested was over 8 ft. lbs. Although you may grow used to this, there isn't very much you can do to alter it as it is a direct sear



The Italian Brema is a conventional break-barrel rifle.



The plastic rear sight has a 'U' leaf and is very similar to the Original rear sight.

Brema 35

by
Geoffrey
Boxall

Right: The
tunnel foresight.

engagement to release the piston.

Brema say that the gun has a two-stage trigger, but I'd reply that this is an exaggeration. The so-called first pressure is the take-up on the spring — and this must be the only non-adjustable two-stage trigger on the market.

For all its faults, the trigger is still usable — but I'd recommend you to buy the Brema as a fun-type sporting rifle rather than for anything more serious. You certainly shouldn't expect tip-top accuracy from it.

The other great clanger about the model 35's specification is that Brema say it has a tunnel foresight with interchangeable elements.

True, it has a tunnel foresight and a screw is fitted for the elements — but there is no slot for the sight elements, and inside the tunnel is a foresight element bent upwards to form a pointed post!

The Brema 35 obviously has its problems, but if you bear in mind that it costs under £50 and you're prepared to persevere, you'll find that it's a rifle with plenty of uses.

It's a full-sized gun that's ideal for 'fun' shooting, and adults should be able to shoot happily with it for hours on end.

The model 35 isn't powerful enough for serious hunting, although I dare say you could shoot small vermin with it quite successfully. It is accurate enough, too, once it settles down, but I doubt that you'd be very successful if you took it 6-yard or 10-metre target shooting.

The Brema's hardwood stock is pleasantly finished in a semi-matt sealer, and the pistol grip panel has been chequered by the pressing process on both sides. The comb is slightly raised, and there is also a cheek-piece for right-handed shooters.

The stock is slim and quite elegant, in fact, and is fitted with a solid rubber recoil pad over a white line spacer.

All the metalwork is beautifully blued, too, and this has been quite well done when you consider the rifle's price tag. As I say, it's a good-looking gun.

The rearsight is made of plastic and is very similar to the Original plastic rearsight. You adjust it for windage and elevation by means of knurled screws, and the rearsight leaf is a 'U'.

As I've said, the tunnel foresight has a

SPECIFICATIONS

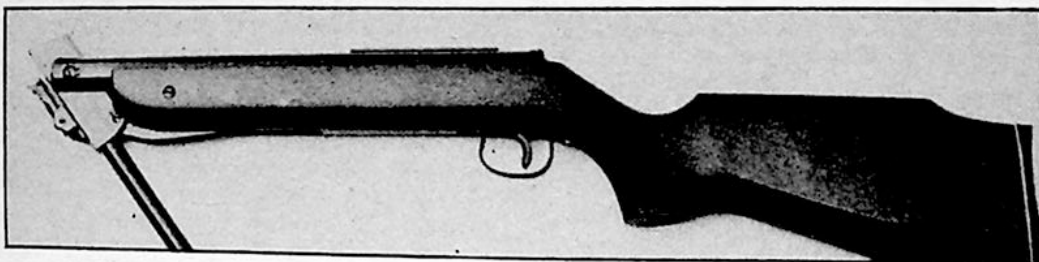
Manufacturer:	Tanfoglio Giuseppe SRL, Brescia, Italy.
Importer:	Precision Arms, Pad-dock Wood, Kent.
Calibre:	.177 and .22.
Weight:	6 lbs. 9 oz.
Overall Length:	44 ins.
Barrel Length:	18 ins.
Muzzle Velocity:	177, 709 f.p.s. with Hobby pellets.
Muzzle Energy:	7.59 ft. lbs.
Price:	£49.99 inc. VAT.

pointed post, and this gives you a more than adequate sight picture in combination with the rearsight leaf.

The foresight is bolted on to grooves on the barrel, and you could probably adapt the Original foresight to fit the Brema if you wanted.

You can fit a scope to the Brema because of a rail that has been spot welded to the cylinder, and all the important screws and bolts have locking screws fitted.

Below: Note the well-finished stock, the raised comb and solid rubber recoil pad.



The Brema 35
— a good-
looking rifle
from Italy.

In conclusion, I'd say that the Brema was a rifle that was 'almost there'. It has some potential, and it could have been made that much better at very little extra cost.

It is early days yet, of course, and the manufacturers may realise its shortcomings and eliminate them. If so, future Brema 35's could pose quite a challenge to the better-known makes.

I sincerely hope that they do improve the rifle in the ways that I've mentioned. Italy produces such superb firearms, shotguns and match air pistols, that it would be nice to see them manufacture a top air rifle, too.

Top Tips

*The page where
you can pass on
your airgun hints*

SEND YOUR TIPS TO: Top Tips, Airgun World, 10 Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1 BG.

THIS MONTH'S GUEST TIPSTER JOHN ATKINS



Some people have very damp skin and their touch is death for the shiny blueing on your prized airguns. Rust can form within a matter of hours on the parts that they've touched.

If other airgunners come to see your valuable collection of rifles and pistols, therefore, just ask them to slip on a pair of cotton gloves lightly impregnated with silicon oil. This will stop their fingerprints damaging the outer surface of your guns.

Don't put too much oil on the gloves, of course. If so, your friend will probably drop the gun — and cause it even more damage!

I must admit that I never do this myself because I like people to be able really to 'feel' the guns — but it would avoid staying up till 3 a.m. rubbing my guns over with oil long after my collector friends have gone home!

While I've got the bit between my teeth, here are some more tips that you

may find useful . . .

Collectors often write to me saying that they can't decide whether to pay what seems to be a high price for an old airgun. I can't decide for you — but remember that most items will turn up again another day at the right price.

Also, never hurry when you're dismantling an old gun. You'll have plenty of time to regret it when a vital and irreplaceable part is broken!

Only use gunsmith's turnscrews and never ordinary carpenters' screwdrivers or you'll ruin the screw's head. Brute force is seldom required to get anything apart — just the right tools, perhaps as little heat treatment, plenty of patience and hours of soaking in penetrating oil.

If things start going wrong, stop! Put the work to one side and try again another day when you're fresh.

Don't forget to make sketches and notes when you're dismantling an unfamiliar gun, because these will help you when it comes to re-assembling it.

Never change interesting old square-section mainsprings for modern ones, either. You can always stretch them if necessary by hanging a medium weight on them for a long period.

Nor should you change an old leather washer if the gun is performing well. You'll probably reduce its performance rather than improve it.

Finally, here's a tip for hunters. Never forget that most streams are one inch higher than most boots — and that barbed wire is always one inch lower than you think!

From D. Parsons of Sussex

Having been plagued with scope creep on my Vulcan, I made a simple but effective stop plate to cure the problem.

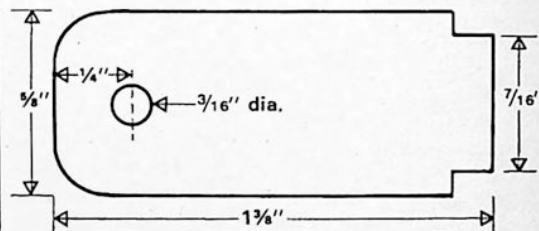
I cut out and drilled a plate from 18 gauge steel sheet (*see diagram*), which is slightly curved to fit on the cylinder top. Before fitting it, I polished and blued it so that it matched the rest of the metalwork.

I fitted the plate by removing the trigger adjusting screw and replacing it with a 2BA round-head screw and nut $\frac{7}{8}$ in. long.

I screwed the nut up to the head, and then put the screw through the hole in the plate and screwed it down until I had obtained the correct trigger pressure. Next, I tightened the locknut down onto the plate.

I then slid the rear scope mounting back against the plate, with the stepped front locating inside the mounting clamp.

I have fired several hundred rounds since completing this modification, and it has proved a very effective cure for scope creep.



From Alex Dixon of Coventry

Here's a tip for airgunners who carry out modifications to their guns.

When you're filing away at a part of your gun, you'll notice that the filings tend to stick to the file.

You can prevent this by rubbing the file with chalk. This fills the gaps between the teeth of the file and stops the filings sticking to it.

From John Pegler of Australia

Airgunners who raise a shine by 'spit and polishing' their leather shoes could do the same to the stock of their rifle.

I've found that an antique furniture polish called Antiquax, made by James Briggs & Sons of Manchester, works a treat on rifle stocks. It certainly produced an excellent glossy finish when I 'spit and polished' the stock of my BSA Meteor.

From Matthew Peckett of Halifax

It's no use going hunting dressed like an SAS soldier from *Who Dares Wins* unless you camouflage your rifle's shiny barrel and gleaming telescopic sight, too.

I discovered this when I went hunting with my .22 calibre ASI Sniper and Weaver scope, so I decided to break up the gun's outline with a roll of plasterers' scrim — which is normally used to fill the joints in plaster board so that no cracks appear.

First, I dyed the scrim green in a cold water dye solution and then squeezed it dry. Then I left it overnight to dry still more.

Next day I wrapped the scrim around the Sniper's barrel, scope and stock — and it was really effective.

One word of warning, though. Don't use scrim as a face veil because it irritates the skin.

From T. Crompton of London

I've discovered a cheap and easy way of making dispensers for Sussex Sabo pellets — from sawn-up lengths of Bic biro.

First, saw the biros into one-inch lengths, and then slightly bore out the first 7 mm. of one end of each length — so that the loaded Sabo fits snugly into it. You can do this quite easily with the sharp end of a can opener.

Now take a screw that will run freely inside the biro, and cut off the pointed end of the screw to avoid displacing the bullet from the sabot.

The screw must be exactly the same length as the piece of biro so as not to push the loaded Sabo too far down the breech.

You can now use your home-made dispenser in exactly the same way as the black plastic ones that you buy — and you can make about five dispensers from every 15p biro.

Paul Dobson's

MIXED BAG



A typical field target event.



Above: Sighting in.



Left: A long range shoot.

Great Field Target Championship

AIRGUN WORLD'S Jim Tyler is to hold an outdoor shoot at his Hippenscombe Farm ground in Wiltshire that he is billing as the 1983 British Open Field Target Championships. With prizes worth over £1,000, no one would disagree with him!

The main sponsors of this star-spangled competition, which is open to all-comers and will be staged on October 29 and 30, are Ensign Arms — makers of the fabulous new Elite air rifle.

The Championships have been organised by Jim Tyler, in conjunction with NARPA, and will feature three separate competitions.

The main shoot comprises two separate courses of 10 targets each — and competitors will be allowed only one shot at each target.

'I feel this will simulate hunting conditions more closely than most shoots do', explains Jim Tyler. 'Competitors may shoot one course per day, or both on the same day if time permits.'

'There is already tremendous interest in these first British Championships, and I'd strongly advise competitors to pre-book by obtaining a form from Terry Vickery at NARPA, 44 High Street, Bridgnorth, Salop'.

A glance at the prize list soon explains why hordes of airgunners will be travelling down to Hippenscombe Farm, Fosbury, near Marlborough, in Wiltshire, on the last weekend in October.

First prize in the main event is an Ensign Royale rifle — the deluxe walnut stocked version of the Ensign rifle that Arthur Shepherd tested in *Airgun World's* July issue.

Second prize is an Ensign Elite with a Tasco 1.75-5 X 32 scope and mounts — and third prize is another Ensign Elite rifle.

Jim Tyler is staging his second competition in conjunction with Sporting Developments International, who make

top quality Kammo and Keeperwear outdoor clothing.

Called the Kodiak/Keeperwear Rough Shooter Competition, this event has been designed to simulate live hunting very closely.

The course will consist of just eight targets — but you must shoot six of the targets from three different firing points. Once again, you will only be allowed one shot per firing point.

The last two targets will both be shot from the same point — in a high seat up a tree!

'Don't enter this competition if you suffer from vertigo', warns Jim, 'but it's worth the risk because there are three great prizes of best quality camouflage gear'.

The third competition was the brainchild of NARPA chairman Maurice Pinner. It is called the 'hidden target' shoot, and competitors will walk a course accompanied by a marshall — and have to find the targets before they can shoot them!

To make life even more difficult, there will be a time limit — and you won't be told how many targets have been hidden!

Jim also hopes to lay on clay pigeon and running boar competitions — and there will be a couple of great team events, too.

The first is for clubs, who can nominate as many four-man teams as they want before the main Championships start. Scores will be compiled at the end of the competition — and the winning team will receive a certificate and the title 'Top Field Target Shooting Club of 1983'.

The second team competition is the first-ever Field Target International Match. Sponsored by *Airgun World* with a trophy and medal prizes, this prestige event is for four-man teams from all over the world.

You qualify for your national team by being among the four highest scorers from your country in the main event — and the national teams will then shoot off at the end of the competition for the *Airgun World* Trophy.

If you or either of your parents were born in Scotland, for example, you will be eligible to shoot for Scotland — provided you are among the four top scoring Scottish shooters.

If you were born in Scotland but live in England, you may shoot for the country of your choice — but you must inform the organisers of your decision before the main event starts.

In addition to the shooting competitions, there will be a social evening on October 29 and a number of trade stands — as well as a special range where you can try the new Ensign Elite rifle.

It should be quite a weekend — so contact Terry Vickery at NARPA for full details.

WAKEFIELD'S PREMIER GUN SHOP



**ALL AIR RIFLES —
PISTOLS ON DISPLAY
GIVING FULL SELECTION
OF FIELD AND TARGET
WEAPONRY —
COMPREHENSIVE RANGE
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Country

Arthur Shepherd looks back at the 1983 Game Fair

ALTHOUGH some of the stand-holders told me that they were a little disappointed, I thought that the Game Fair in Scotland was a great success.

The organisers reckoned that around 30,000 people visited the Fair on each of the first two days — and, although there seemed to be fewer people on the third morning, a good-sized crowd had built up by mid-afternoon.

I agree that more people attend the Game Fair when it is held in England, but at least those who went this year had less problem than usual with parking and traffic hold-ups!

There was plenty of space on the trade stands, too, so you could handle guns at your leisure — and even the weather was perfect, with plenty of sunshine but enough breeze to prevent you becoming too desperately hot.

Most of the visitors seemed to be looking rather than buying, though, and several gunmakers told me that they weren't selling much that cost more than £5. I wouldn't like to say whether this was due to the economic recession — or just to the canny Scots taking a good long look before committing themselves to a purchase!

The *Airgun World* stand was bang opposite the airgun range, and I enjoyed meeting a steady stream of readers during the three days.

Many of them were keen to see two rifles in particular — the Theoben Sirocco, the winner of our Airgun of the Year poll for 1983, and the Ensign Elite, the brand new rifle that uses pre-loaded air cartridges.

Sadly, neither of these quality hunting rifles was on show at the Fair, though. That was a pity — although I know that the Ensign is behind schedule on the production line and that Tasco had hoped to have at least one of these revolutionary rifles on display.

Airgun World readers were able to examine a classy new rifle from Galway Silencers, though. Called the Bushmaster, it uses a gas reservoir that you fill by screwing a standard gas bottle onto a valve — in the same way as you do when refilling a cigarette lighter.

Once you've charged the bolt action, fixed barrel Bushmaster, the makers say it will push out 50 shots at full power — which is right up to the 12 ft. lbs. legal limit. It will then give you another 10 shots at reduced power.

Weighing in at 6½ lbs., the rifle is well-balanced and has a high quality finish. With a likely price tag of £250, though, its selling potential could be rather limited — especially since you need a firearms certificate to own a CO₂ gun. Let's hope I'm wrong!

Plenty of visitors also asked me for the name and address of their nearest club, for both indoor and outdoor shooting. Luckily my colleague, Jim Tyler, who has helped to start several clubs around Glasgow, was on hand — and able to supply the necessary information.

One aspect of the Fair that disappointed many readers was the lack of an open shooting event where they could use their own rifles. You can only use the rifles that are provided on the NARPA range, of course.

Perhaps someone will organise an open outdoor air rifle competition at next year's Fair in Hampshire. It would certainly prove popular — and I'm sure there would be no shortage of companies interested in sponsoring such a shoot.

Several members of the *Airgun World* team tried our luck on the airgun range all the same — although none of us managed a winning score. If the targets had been rabbits rather than paper cards, I'm sure we'd have done much better!

Maybe we were hampered by the fact that we weren't kitted

Gun

Right: The popular Airgun World stand. Below: Jim Galway demonstrates the new Bushmaster gas rifle.



out in all the gear that today's target shooters reckon to be so important — a king-sized glove for our front hand, ear muffs, eye shades, padded jackets and all the rest!

All in all, I'd say that the 1983 Game Fair was a good one — very enjoyable and not unlike Game Fairs in England in the days before it became so popular and overcrowded that it's now in danger of strangling itself.

When I got home from Scotland, I was greeted by thunder and lightning, a torrential rain storm — and an ecstatic spaniel who vacuumed my clothes with his wet black nose, extracting every last scent of Scotland and the Game Fair.

My wife was no less pleased to see me, I think, but restricted her enthusiasm to telling me that a rabbit had invaded the garden and was busily devouring the few plants that had managed to survive the summer drought.

Recalling my last ignominious attempts to shoot a rabbit in the garden, which regular readers will remember as being singularly unsuccessful, I was rather tempted to let the intruder carry on unmolested.

Luck was on my side this time, though, because I happened to be sitting outside the back door cleaning my Theoben Sirocco when I spotted the rabbit. What's more, I had a tin of pellets on the table beside me.

It was all too easy, and a day or two later we enjoyed *lapin au moutarde* — or rabbit in mustard, to give the dish its English name. My wife obtained the recipe from a cook at a small country hotel in France last year — and it really is delicious.

A couple of days later I had the privilege of handling the first production model of the Ensign air rifle to be assembled at the Stratford-on-Avon factory where they're being made.

With its selected walnut stock, black metalwork and elegant lines, it looks very handsome indeed and handles like a dream. A few will be on sale soon — although the great bulk of them won't reach the shops until Christmas time.

It's certainly a gun that all airgunners will want to try — so don't miss my test on it in the *Airgun World Annual 1984*, which comes out this autumn.

AIRGUN

AMMO

REGULAR READERS will remember that I explained last month why you shouldn't use tin cans as a guide to the killing capability of your air rifle.

The .25 pellet appeared to have devastating potential at a range of 30 feet, for instance, ripping the tin can apart and partially crushing it.

The .22 pellet made a neat hole and also dented the can to a lesser extent, while the .177 pellet left a precise hole but failed to dent the can at all.

This seems to prove that .25 calibre is the obvious choice for short range work — and there's certainly no denying that the old .25's are very useful for close range shooting such as removing rats from barns.

Treble the range from 30 feet to 30 yards, however, and the picture changes quite dramatically.

The .25 pellet has failed to penetrate even one wall of the can. It has crushed the can considerably, but all its energy has been given up to moving the can.

The .22, on the other hand, has penetrated one wall of the can, almost penetrated the other one and given up all its energy to the target — which is what we want.

The smaller .177 pellet has penetrated both walls quite cleanly, but the can has remained virtually where it was in the first place — showing that the pellet transmitted very little of its energy to the target. In other words, the pellet has passed right through the target, taking much of its energy with it.

What do these test prove in relation to the humane and effective despatch of animals? The answer, you'll be sorry to hear, is precisely nothing!

This is because animals aren't made of tin but of muscle, tissue and bone!

The .25 pellet isn't a good aeroplane. With a muzzle energy restricted by law to

PART 3 A question of calibres

by Fred Grimwade

12 ft. lbs., the .25 is too slow and its trajectory far too curved for even an expert marksman to shoot accurately.

Frankly, long range shooting isn't a practical proposition with this heavy-weight pellet — because it's extremely difficult to estimate where you should aim to achieve the desired point of impact at different ranges.

Another reason why airguns are no longer made in .25 calibre is that although the weighty pellet produces plenty of shock, its relatively large surface area means that it isn't very good at penetrating its target.

As I've already said, you need a good measure of both shock and penetration for effective, first-time kills — and .25 pellets carry plenty of shock but little penetration. You might score the occasional lucky kill at long range with a .25 calibre gun — but no responsible hunter who respects wildlife would find those odds acceptable.

At long ranges a .25 pellet will usually cause very severe bruising to an animal like a rabbit.

Rabbits are tougher than you might think — particularly during winter when their layers of protective fat act as an effective cushion around their furry body — and they very often survive this sort of bruising. We can only hazard a guess at the pain and misery they must suffer during their recovery period.

The pellets I fired at the cans during

these tests were all conventional dome-headed pellets, by the way, and a pellet's penetration capabilities will certainly improve if you alter its shape to a point. More about this aspect of things later on, though.

Many readers will already know that I regard .177 as the best long range calibre — and I make that judgment almost exclusively from personal experience. We all know that .22 calibre would be better than .177 at 150 yards — but both are useless, for all practical purposes, at that range anyway.

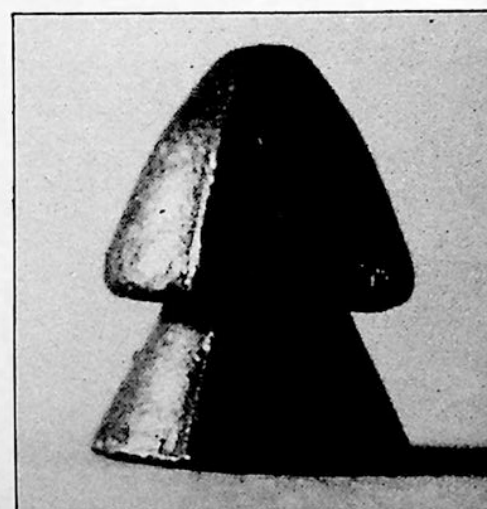
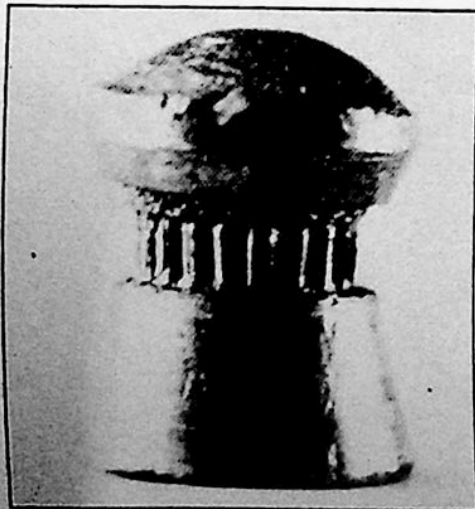
I don't plan to enter into the age-old calibre arguments in detail here, but suffice it to say that the .177 has a flatter trajectory, greater velocity and the extra ability to penetrate into brains and hearts at ranges up to 50 yards — producing, for me at any rate, clean and humane kills.

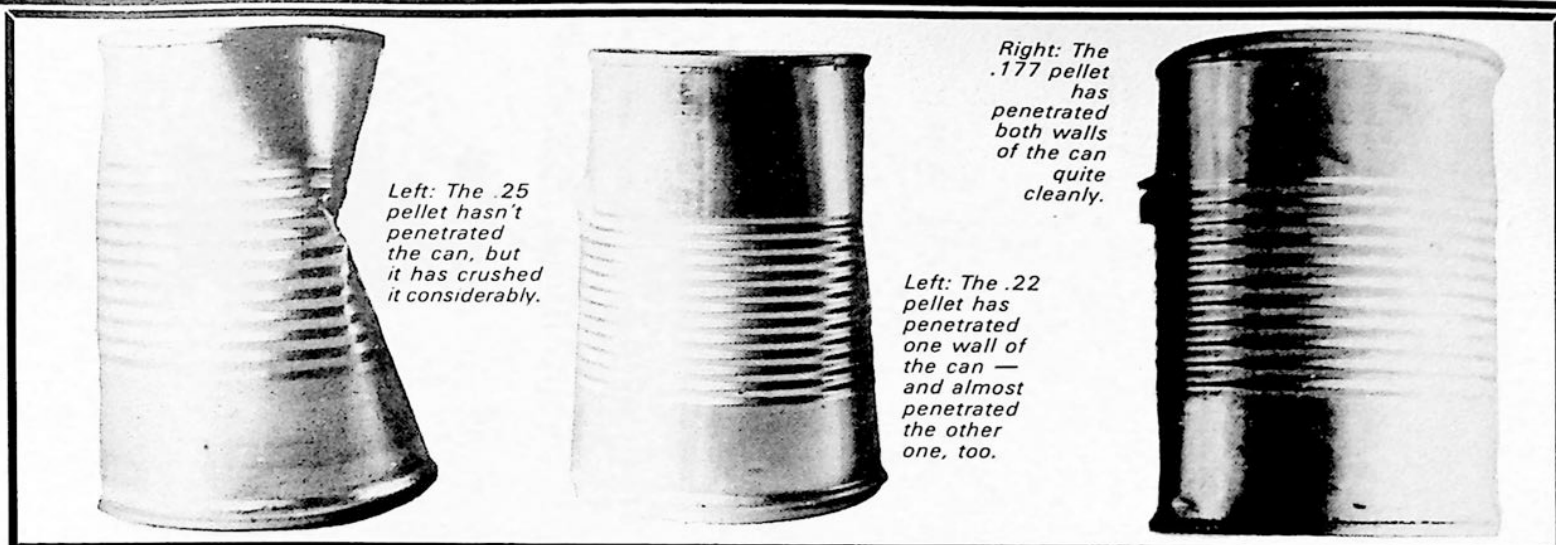
The flatter trajectory of the faster moving .177 pellet enables me to estimate precise points of impact far more easily at ranges between 20 and 50 yards than I could ever do with the slower .22.

You don't need to adjust your sights, and all you need do is make a slight visual adjustment to the position of the scope's cross-hairs. Estimating this margin of 'hold over', as it is called, comes with experience.

I don't deny that .22 pellets are aerodynamically superior to the .177 because of their extra weight and length — but this factor only becomes important once the pellet has travelled beyond the ranges at which it is realistic to shoot live quarry.

As I've said, animals are made of the same materials as us humans — muscle, tissue and bone. Arms experts worked out the best ways of killing other human beings with high velocity firearms a long time ago — but the number of wounded





Left: The .25 pellet hasn't penetrated the can, but it has crushed it considerably.

Left: The .22 pellet has penetrated one wall of the can — and almost penetrated the other one, too.

Right: The .177 pellet has penetrated both walls of the can quite cleanly.

still far exceeds the number of dead.

The reason for this isn't that the weapons aren't good enough. They are. It is that the standard of marksmanship is too poor. The average soldier isn't usually a particularly good marksman — and, even if he is, his accuracy is often impaired by the fact that his enemy is shooting back at him.

Fortunately, airgun hunters don't face the same problem. What's more, modern air rifles are well up to the job of shooting rabbits on a sunny afternoon — and so is much of today's airgun ammo.

The standard of marksmanship, on the other hand, is sadly lacking in my opinion — although it is undoubtedly the single most important factor in securing efficient kills.

Very few airgunners that I've met could claim to be true marksmen. No force on earth can convince most of them of the value of practice — and six hours per week is the minimum practice period that I would regard as adequate if you want to put rabbits and birds in the bag with reasonable regularity.

Shooters who whine that something is wrong with their scope, or that their gun has lost power, are really just making excuses for the fact that they haven't practised sufficiently.

Hey, you out there! When did you last spend a day shooting at field targets at

varying ranges?

Having got that off my chest, let's return to my ammunition tests — and I must say straightaway that ballistic putty or even plasticine will give you a far better picture of a pellet's killing ability than a tin can ever could.

Robert Law, the American airgun entrepreneur, always recommended the .177 as the best hunting pellet — and his beautiful catalogues were always well illustrated with photos of pellets striking water and even buckets of lard!

I don't intend to copy his methods, but I'll stick to good old plasticine at a controlled temperature to show the penetration effects of different types of pellet.

You can only determine a pellet's degree of shock by measuring the energy remaining at different ranges using current techniques, but Robert Law was on the right track with his 'freeze photo' methods. This is because the visible radiated shock wave is directly related to the actual shocking potential of the ammunition.

Relying on shock alone isn't enough, though, given an airgun's comparatively low power, unless you're shooting at very short ranges. In that case, you could kill your quarry with a half-inch ball, anyway!

What is very important is that your pellet is capable of penetrating muscle

and tissue, as well as bone and tightly knit feathers.

What should you choose, then — the bludgeon or the sword thrust? Well, both will kill at short range, but at longer distances the sword must become the arrow or the spear and the bludgeon must become a rock — and a rock that is heavy enough to kill every time needs an awful lot more energy to reach its target than an arrow does.

The ideal pellet, therefore, would appear to be pointed in shape to produce the penetration we require at long range. It must also be constructed in such a way that it will deliver a good measure of shock, too.

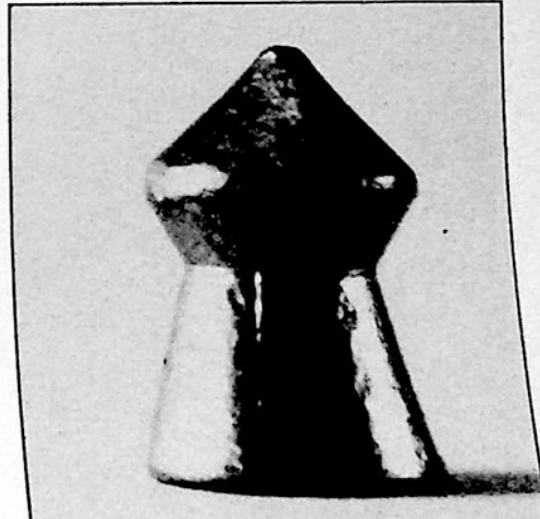
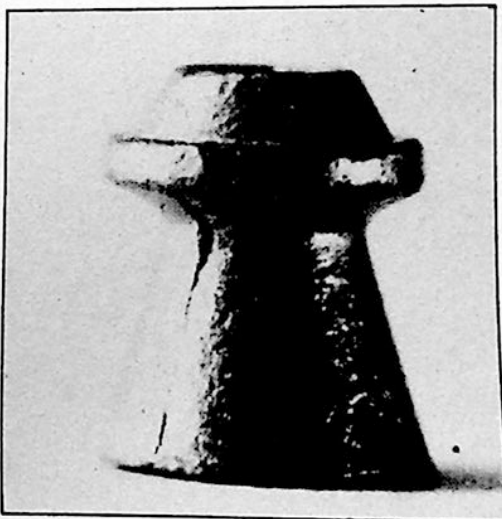
Sad to say, producing a pellet with these qualities is fraught with problems.

To start with, it is difficult to manufacture because of the single-stage compression processes that are used when making lead pellets.

Secondly, a pointed pellet with even the tiniest flaw will deviate from its intended flight path much more readily than a flat or dome-head pellet. Furthermore, any specialised pellet will invariably be suited to only a very few rifle barrels.

Next month I'll demonstrate the effects of pointed and wadcutter pellets, fired at identical power, at both short and long ranges. The search for the perfect hunting pellet continues!

From the left: The heavy Lane's domehead in .22; the Silver Streak; the Viper; the Beeman Silver Bear hollow point; and the H & N Pointed in .20 calibre.



James Marchington stalks the

Black-and-White

MAGPIES are one of a gamekeeper's greatest enemies. They raid the nests of game birds such as pheasants and partridges, and they will even take the young chicks once they have hatched.

These wily birds aren't a problem to farmers, though, because they don't eat crops or carry disease. So it's the places where the game is preserved for shooting that magpies are discouraged.

Not far from where I live is a farm where a syndicate of guns pay a small fortune each year for the right to shoot pheasants

and partridges. They can't afford to take on a full-time keeper, so they employ a local man to do the work part-time.

This means that he doesn't have a chance to control the vermin properly, so he is always glad of some help from me.

Magpies are a particular problem at nesting time, but he likes to keep their numbers down throughout the year. The other day he phoned to tell me that he had

seen 'dozens' of the black-and-white birds.

'They seem to have invaded the place', he said. 'Can you come down and give me a hand sorting them out?'

Naturally I agreed, and we arranged to meet at the farm in two days' time. He sounded rather surprised when I told him that I would be bringing my air rifle and a ferret, though!

I arrived at the farm before him, and began assembling my kit — a Kammo shirt and cap from Sporting Developments, a thin face mask, and the penknife that I

Left: The ferret wasn't bothered by the fuss.

Below: The magpie sat still long enough for me to take a quick shot.



Peril

always carry. I also had a magpie call, the ferret in his basket, and my Sirocco rifle.

I fired a few shots at pieces of gravel to check the gun's zero, and then put the ferret's collar on.

At this point, Bill — that's the keeper — turned up. Without even saying hello, he asked how on earth I thought I would catch magpies with a ferret.

'Can't see it catching 'em meself, unless it's got wings on', he chuckled.

We arranged to go to opposite ends of the shoot, so that we wouldn't spoil each other's chances.

If you're after squirrels, then two guns are better than one — but with magpies it's a different story. The sharp-eyed birds are twice as likely to spot two shooters — and they won't hang around to see what you want!

When I reached the edge of a wood, I stopped and looked round for a good spot to hide.

I decided that my best bet was to stand by an old barn, where a tree and a thick patch of stinging nettles formed a natural wall of vegetation that would screen me from the magpies' view. The place was close enough to the wood for the birds to hear my call, and the open ground in front would give me a clear shot.

Then I set to work, cutting a peg from a branch and tying the ferret to it with a length of baler twine that I had picked up in the farmyard.

I drove the peg into the ground about 20 yards out into the field, leaving the ferret tethered but free to move around in a circle a couple of yards across.

Then I moved back behind my leafy screen, and settled down to wait. Every now and then, I gave a blast on the magpie call, trying to imitate the enraged call of a bird that has seen a predator.

Eventually, my efforts were rewarded when an answering call told me that a magpie was in the wood. The bird called again, and I answered, and so it went on for about five minutes, until suddenly my noises were met with silence.

I tried to think back over the episode, wondering whether I had somehow given the bird a warning instead of encouraging it.

A whoosh of wings and a swooping shape overhead told me otherwise. While I was worrying where I had gone wrong, the magpie had been sitting on the roof, watching the ferret with curiosity.

With a loud squawk, the bird landed beside the ferret, raising its wings and tail in an aggressive pose.

My problem now was to hit the magpie



James Marchington with his magpie call and full camouflage gear.

as it hopped up and down with rage — and miss the ferret, of course! The bird was so agitated that it was sure to be quite a tricky shot.

I decided that I would have to forget about the finer points of theory, and go for a snap shot when the magpie landed.

The ferret, meanwhile, didn't seem in the least bothered by all the fuss it was causing. It had caught the scent of a rabbit on the grass, and had decided that the best move was to dig down in the hope of finding the bunny!

Eventually, the magpie sat still long enough for me to take a quick shot. I was pleasantly surprised to see it flap twice and then lie still, because I was convinced that I had missed well over the top.

When I went to pick the bird up, I saw what had happened, though. The pellet had struck it right in the top of the head — because it had jumped just at the moment that I fired. If it had stayed still, it would be alive now to tell the tale!

I reckoned that I had used up my share of luck for the day, so I moved my ambush over to the edge of the wood — hoping that I would be able to see the birds in the trees before they flew down to the ground.

Sure enough, three-quarters of an hour later another magpie showed up, replying to my calls just as the first had done. This time the bird settled in the tree above my head, squawking at the top of its voice.

Try as I might, though, I just couldn't spot the bird among the branches.

Then I realised that the noise was coming from not one bird but two — and soon they were joined by more until the air was blue with their raucous calls.

They were swooping and flapping in the branches above me, and once again I had trouble finding one that would sit still long enough for me to shoot.

Then I spotted one sitting in a hawthorn bush, much lower than the others, with its eyes fixed on the ferret. The bird was silent, almost as if it was

hypnotised by the sight of this strange creature.

I brought the gun slowly and smoothly to my shoulder, centred the cross-hairs on the bird's back, and squeezed the trigger. Even among the magpies' din, the report of the shot sounded deafening — and the pellet hit home with a loud smack.

The bird was flung from its perch in a cloud of feathers, landing in a crumpled heap on the ground. That one had eaten its last pheasant egg, I thought with satisfaction!

By the time I had reloaded, the other birds were long gone. They had obviously got the message because I didn't see another magpie — or even hear one — for the next couple of hours.

Time was getting on by now, so I gave the ferret a piece of meat that I had cut from one of the dead birds and set off back to the farmyard.

On the way back, I kept a sharp lookout for any more magpies. Each time I rounded a corner, I put the ferret basket on the ground and peered round to see if there was anything in sight.

I didn't really expect to see any more magpies, but I would have kicked myself if I had missed a chance by appearing suddenly round a corner.

I could scarcely believe my luck when I glanced round a thick holly bush to see a magpie feeding on a dead rabbit that lay on the track.

I dodged back out of sight to get ready, then edged round again and took careful aim. The shot found its mark, and a third magpie joined the other two in my bag.

As I approached the farmyard, Bill called out: 'What kept you? Did you have trouble with the flying ferret?'

'No', I replied, 'but we got three magpies'.

Bill could hardly believe his ears, and begged me to tell him how I had done it. I wasn't going to let on, though.

'You'll have to read next month's *Airgun World* to find out', I said!

Any Questions . . .

Send your airgun queries to:

JOHN STEVENS, AIRGUN WORLD, 10 SHEET STREET,
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John Stevens and Airgun World regret that it is not possible to answer every single question received. However, we shall publish answers or send personal replies to as many readers as we can — especially if you enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Original 27 Spring

I've owned an Original 27 for about three years, and I'd like to know whether I can fit a more powerful mainspring. Would an Original 35 mainspring be suitable, for instance?

Kyle Barron,
Parkstone, Dorset.

I don't know of any other mainspring that would boost your Original 27's power.

The popular
Original 27.

You could contact some companies who make special springs, however — such as Helston Gunsmiths of Cornwall and Gunsport of Rotherham.

Original Power Loss

The power of my .22 calibre Original 45 has suddenly diminished — and I don't know what's wrong. Can you help?

M. Jarratt,
Pontefract, West Yorkshire.

This problem could have been caused by any number of things.

Begin by checking whether the breech washer is in position and intact. If not, this could be the culprit.

If you have to dismantle the gun, check whether the mainspring has broken or buckled. If so, you will obviously need to replace it.

Then check whether the piston washer is intact and whether the internal parts are correctly lubricated. I suggest that you apply a thin coat of Abbey LT2 grease on the mainspring and a few drops of Abbey SM50 molybdenum oil to lubricate the piston in the chamber.

Feinwerkbau Power

Can I increase the power of my Feinwerkbau 300SU to 12 ft. lbs. — or even higher, because I already have a firearms certificate?

M. Jamieson,
Halifax, Yorkshire.

No! The power of the Feinwerkbau 300SU target rifle can't be substantially increased beyond its usual limited power — which is fine for target shooting, but not for hunting.

Professor of Scopes!

I've noticed an outbreak of 'barrel-droop blues' on Weihrauch rifles — and one company is even producing tapered mounts to compensate! How serious is this complaint and which Weihrauch models does it affect?

On the question of scopes and mounts, everyone seems to agree that one-piece mounts are best — but the latest craze is for parallax adjustable scopes. Combined with exit-pupil sizes and luminosity factors, you'll soon need a degree in optical engineering before you can choose a suitable scope!

Can you advise me on a scope for dawn-to-dusk shooting — especially for those of us who aren't professors?

N. Curtis,
Middlewich, Cheshire.

Most of the models in the Weihrauch range seem to be affected by barrel-droop to varying degrees.

It's true that buying a parallax adjustable scope won't make a great difference — but why not have everything in your favour?

There's no need to look beyond the superb FM range of Tasco scopes on this score. They represent quality normally associated with a higher price bracket. My favourite is the Tasco 648 VFM.

Gun/Scope Combination

I want to buy a new gun for about £80 for field shooting. What do you recommend — and what scope should I buy?

B. Bird,
Cilgerran, Dyfed.

The Weihrauch HW35, Webley Vulcan and Original 45 will all fall within your price bracket if you shop around. Any of them would be fine for hunting, and their simple and proven designs require the minimum of maintenance.

Asking which scope you should buy without giving me more details is rather like asking which car you should purchase without saying how much you want to spend — or whether you want to enter Formula 1 races or tow a caravan!

Keep reading Airgun World until you build up a picture in your mind of the various scopes available and what each type seems best suited to.

Never Too Old!

Having retired, I'm thinking of taking up target pistol shooting. I've studied the latest airgun book by John Walter and I reckon that the FAS 604 would be a good choice.

It's a light weapon and the author gave it 5 marks out of 5 in his comparability chart. Perhaps you can give me your thoughts.

This pistol is priced at £150 in an Airgun World advertisement, but my local gunshop is selling one for £188. I mentioned this price difference to him, and he said that I should be wary of 'cut-price dealers'. I'm not convinced — but what do you say?

A. Proud,
Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

Although I'm no target pistol expert, I agree that the FAS 604 is a superb pistol.

I certainly wouldn't be put off by cut-price dealers, especially if they advertise in Airgun World. You'll find that most of them are very concerned about their reputations and will go to great lengths to help you if you have difficulties with your purchase.

New .20 Spring

My Airgunaid SP5 in .20 calibre needs a new spring, but the manufacturers seem to have closed down. Where could I obtain the necessary spares?

Tim Vincent-Piper,
Newdigate, Surrey.

Airgunaid are no longer in business unfortunately, but you shouldn't have any trouble obtaining a replacement spring from a specialist airgun company.

Why not pop along to Dees Sports in Wallington? I'm sure they'd be able to match your old spring with one of similar dimensions.

Choosing a Scope

Which Tasco scope would be best for day and dusk shooting — the 658W, 654V or the 663WFM?

Also, is it safe to use the Vulcan's body end plug as an arrestor block?

Henry Nicoll,
Coggeshall, Essex.

All the scopes you mention give a very similar performance, and they certainly all perform equally well in poor light.

Although the 658W has a 40 mm. lens and the 654V is a wide-angle, I think I'd choose the 663WFM because it has the variable parallax facility.

I don't think it would be safe to use the Vulcan's cylinder end as an arrestor block. Either use a good one-piece mount, such as the SportsMatch, or have a proper arrestor block fitted permanently.

Long Range Rifle

Can you tell me what types of vermin I could shoot with a Weihrauch HW80 modified to 21 ft. lbs.? I know I would need a firearms certificate to own so powerful a rifle.

M. Waterhouse,
Telford, Shropshire.

The fact that your HW80 is modified to even 21 ft. lbs. won't materially alter the type of quarry which you can shoot humanely. What it may do is extend the range at which you can shoot that quarry.

Buying a Rifle

Since being given a Webley Typhoon, I've become more and more interested in airgunning and I'm now thinking of buying a new rifle. I'll be using it to shoot vermin and I have between £45 and £55 to spend.

What gun would you recommend — and what calibre?

Philip Williams (aged 14),
Gwynedd, Wales.

You haven't given me much to go on, but I'd say you should consider the Webley Victor before you make your final decision. To the best of my knowledge, it's the least expensive rifle that is truly suitable for hunting live quarry.

Although the calibre controversy has raged for years, I've personally had slightly better results with .22 — especially against pigeons.

Hunting with a Hawk

I've used my Webley Hawk Mk. 3 for target shooting for several years, but I've just obtained permission to shoot over 60 acres of land.

Will my rifle be suitable for hunting rabbits and pigeons, or would I need something more powerful?

Graeme Hays,
Sevenoaks, Kent.

Although I wouldn't say that your Webley Hawk Mk. 3 was ideal for hunting, I'm impressed by the fact that you have several years' target shooting experience.

You should be well aware of its capabilities and limitations by now, therefore, so you shouldn't have any problem in despatching rabbits provided you restrict your range to 25 or 30 yards.

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Poll Problems

I would like to comment on what I regard as a flaw in your *Airgun of the Year '83* poll.

While I agree that the Theoben Sirocco may be one of the top airguns, I don't feel that it should have been voted for as a single model while the Weihrauch HW35 and HW35E were judged as two separate models.

Both Weihrauchs have the same action, and only their stocks are different. The same is true of three different versions of the Sirocco.

If the Sirocco's three variations had been classed separately, perhaps the Weihrauch HW80 would have come through and topped the poll.

Equally, if votes for the standard and export Weihrauch HW35 had been amalgamated, the HW35 action might have finished much higher in the *Airgun of the Year* and *Sporting Rifle* categories.

Nigel Allen,
Bristol, Avon.

The Editor comments:

I accept your point that it might have been fairer if the votes for the Weihrauch HW35 and HW35E had been 'lumped together' — in the same way as they were for the various Sirocco models.

Having checked the votes, however, I can tell you that this would have made no difference to the result of the poll — and did not affect the Sirocco's victory, nor the placings of the HW35 and HW35E.

Many people were surprised by the Sirocco's easy victory — but I would remind you that airgunners didn't need to own a Sirocco in order to vote for it.

Don't Give Up!

I am constantly reading in *Airgun World* about the difficulties that fellow airgunners encounter in trying to find somewhere to shoot, and I can only say to them: 'Don't get discouraged'.

It took my shooting partner and I three years of asking, pestering and probing before, quite by chance, we were given permission to shoot on a 110-acre farm.

Surprisingly enough, my first shoot was a stretch of river bank in the heart of industrial Glasgow. With a bulk-grain store on one side, a shipyard on the other, and a sewage depot opposite, it certainly wasn't very pretty — but there were rats, pigeons and even a small band of rabbits!

So don't be too selective. Even what appears to be a totally unpromising site can still yield some good sport.

David Hadley,
Glasgow, Scotland.

Alarming Answer

I was alarmed to read John Stevens's reply to the letter from Chris Sutcliffe (*Any Questions*, July issue), asking about the disease that causes white nodules to appear on rabbits' livers.

I once shot a woodpigeon which was so sluggish that I was able to take three shots at it. At first I thought that it must have been wounded previously, but I later found that its liver was covered with small white pimples — and a biology teacher told me it might be a form of cancer.

We immediately disposed of the remains and I gave my hands a good wash! Could we really have eaten it without risk?

J.F.R. Craven,
Ringmer, East Sussex.

The Cost of Shooting

I don't like having to disagree with John Stevens, but I must take issue with his reply to Mr. S.R. Honnor (*Any Questions*, June issue).

John said that it was a good thing that there were so few field shoots because this deterred people who had only a passing interest in airgunning 'and no other qualification except owning an air rifle and having the money'.

In fact, it is often not how safe you are, nor how much you care for the environment, but how much you are able to spend which determines whether you can find a shoot.

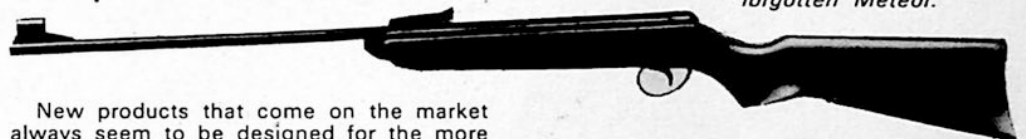
I read one advertisement offering a shoot for up to two guns at a rate of £10 per gun per day. That's quite a rate for doing the farmer a favour!

Uncontrolled shooting would obviously be disastrous for our wildlife, but there are plenty of places where vermin are allowed to proliferate unchecked. Council rubbish tips are one example — but just try to obtain the council's permission to shoot there!

It is one thing to persevere in your quest for a shoot — but quite another to be able to afford it once you find one!

G.R. Lidstone,
Benfleet, Essex.

Cheap and Cheerful



New products that come on the market always seem to be designed for the more expensive guns, which are out of most people's price range.

I was only able to afford a BSA Meteor, which is a good rifle for its price. I thought I could improve its capabilities by buying a silicon ring, but was told: 'Not for a Meteor!'

A Fair Swap

I wonder whether anyone would like to swap a Weihrauch HW35 barrel for a 1965 Webley Ranger, which is a collector's item.

The rifle is in good working order — and I would naturally like the barrel to be in the same condition.

D.W. Hopkinson,
2 Darwin Avenue,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

British or German?

I am always interested by the argument about the merits of British and German airguns.

I own a BSA Airsporter 'S' and a Feinwerkbau Sport Mk. 2, both in .22 calibre, and I can honestly say that the Airsporter is by far the better gun. It beats the Feinwerkbau for both power and accuracy — and it's a much better looking rifle, too.

My Airsporter is fitted with a Milbro 4 X 32 scope, costing £125 in all, while my Feinwerkbau/ASI 4 X 32 scope combination set me back £200. I know which I regard as the better value!

I'm glad that John Stevens is at least recommending British guns to both new and experienced airgunners, though I can't agree with his criticism of their trigger mechanisms. If a good workman shouldn't blame his tools, I don't think he should blame his trigger either!

Neil Lambton,
Gravesend, Kent.

Outdoors in Scotland

On behalf of the Clyde Air Rifle & Pistol Club, the only outdoor shooters' club in Scotland, I would like to thank Eric Wallace for his efforts in staging the NARPA OSS Scottish heat in July. Everyone who went along had a very good day's shooting.

I must add that it would have been nice to see some of the people who complain about the lack of outdoor airgun events north of the border, however.

If they're not prepared to support the few events that are held, how can they expect to attract the sponsorship and national interest needed to make events like this possible?

Anne Perks,
Cardross, Dumbartonshire.

Unfair Rules

I was interested to read a letter about unfair rules (*Air Your Views*, June issue) and I should like to point out that the Guild of Weapons Masters doesn't restrict its competitions to members of the Guild.

Anyone can take part in our shoots — so everyone has a chance to win a medal.

David Bucktrout,
Guild of Weapons Masters.

Surefire Sirocco

I recently bought a Theoben Sirocco Deluxe and would like to say how pleased I am with it. I have been very impressed by its great accuracy, nice handling qualities and general standard of workmanship.

I can't understand, therefore, why Geoffrey Boxall said in his *Gun Test* (August issue) that the rifle was accurate at 20 yards — but that the groups tended to spread at longer ranges. What does he expect them to do — get smaller?

My own groups average 50 mm. at 40 yards, which isn't bad for any air rifle.

The distance between the trigger and the pistol grip isn't so great as to make very much difference. If Geoff has to reach for the trigger, this means he must be snatching at it — which is the reason for the increase in his group sizes.

I hope you won't find my comments out of order, but I can speak from some experience as a soldier serving with an infantry battalion in Northern Ireland.

I'm the battalion weapons training instructor, and have completed courses as a small arms instructor, master coach, sniper instructor and sharp shooting instructor at the School of Infantry.

I am making these points because it seems that whatever British manufacturers do, it doesn't seem to be good enough. I believe they now make excellent guns at very fair prices.

Name and address supplied.

I REMEMBER that it was a typically gloomy November evening back in 1978 when my brother paid me one of his occasional visits. He had come to ask whether I would store his old air rifle for a week or two as he was moving house.

'Okay', I said, watching my two elder sons' eyes light up at the sight of the battered Webley Hawk that he handed to my wife.

'Put it somewhere safe', she muttered, passing it to me as though it were a bomb. Obediently I went and hid it in as inaccessible a place as I could find.

'Two weeks', repeated my brother. 'It'll only be two weeks and then I'll find somewhere safe for it in the new house'.

Unfortunately, having left us with a lodger as popular as a rattlesnake in a lucky dip, my brother changed his mind and emigrated to darkest Australia!

The illicit object lay mouldering in the recesses of our broom cupboard for a full six months, disturbed only by the odd furtive glance and the occasional brush of its softly glowing, hand polished beech stock.

At first I resisted all my sons' entreaties to 'have a go with it', remembering my own misspent youth and the collection of irate neighbours I quickly gathered.

Finally, of course, I 'reluctantly' gave in

Starting

John Welham describes seduced back to

and, choosing an afternoon when my wife was away on a shopping trip, we rescued the object of our interest from its dungeon below the stairs.

Stifling an irrational urge to slope furtively off to resume my interrupted career as the scourge of the local bird life, I assumed the mantle of the responsible parent determined to ensure that if my sons were going to use guns, then they would use them safely and take the sport seriously.

'What are we going to shoot at, Pops?', demanded my eldest son, receiving a hearty cuff from an old 'Doctor Spock' for his impudence. The problem had occurred to me — and, anyway, I can't stand being called 'Pops'.

An old bean can galloped to the rescue and did sterling service as a target until it succumbed to wounds and was replaced by some of its mates.

Strangely, as I instructed the boys in what gun law I could remember — mainly that they should never point a gun at anyone — and as we slowly perforated our tins, it occurred to me that I might have overrated myself as the Davy Crockett of the under-10 set.

While I struggled to hit the occasional target, Richard and Clive became steadily more proficient, regularly sending tins spinning into the backstop.

They say that ignorance is bliss and, as the afternoon rolled by, our trusty tins were replaced by cotton reels, film containers and other tiny targets that we positioned at what seemed ridiculous ranges. Ten yards, 12 yards, 15 yards — was no distance too far?

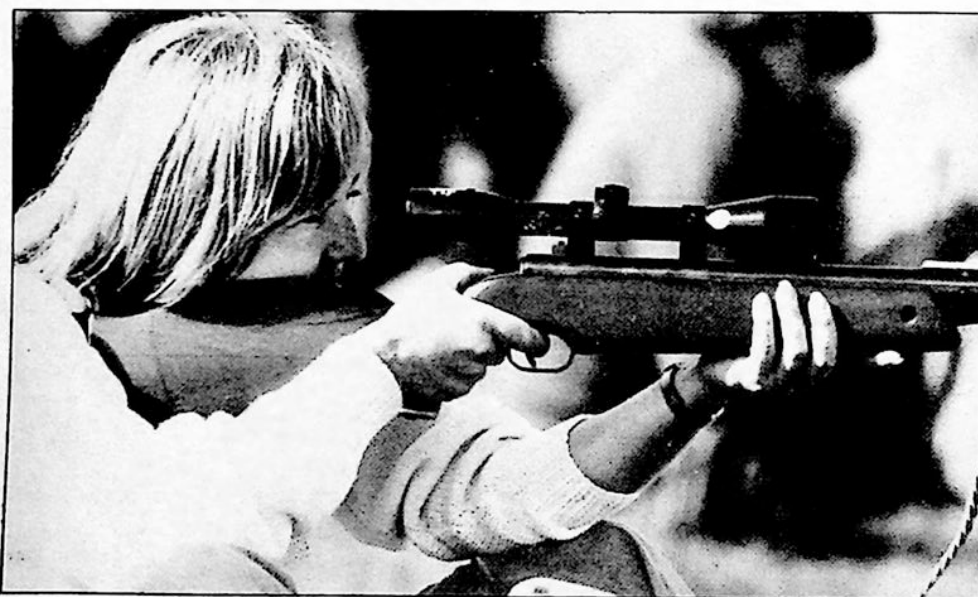
'Cracked it', I thought, as I sent a matchbox flying with a stray shot — little realising that in the years ahead I would be required to group shots within three-quarters of an inch at 40 yards.

The old Hawk gradually 'grew' into our hands, the unused woodwork warming to our touch, and I knew that I had re-awakened a dormant interest in guns. I guessed that I was on the rocky road to abject poverty.

As the sound of plinking reached the nearby gardens, our neighbours started to take an interest — the ladies looking apprehensively over their neatly trimmed hedges as we shouted our delight at a hit or groaned at a close miss.

They obviously thought I was demented — the fiendish instructor of an embryo terrorist gang. They had read the scare stories in their local papers for too long.

Their husbands had a different attitude



'I'm not sure that women and guns mix', says John Welham. This young lady would disagree!



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Over!

how he was airgunning

— one of suppressed envy. They couldn't play with their own guns, of course, but at least they could watch our fun from a distance — offering advice that usually led to them having a go themselves.

One of them has since succumbed to the pleasures of field target shooting, forsaking his former pursuit of bashing hell out of a miniscule ball with a steel-tipped stick!

My wife's reaction on that first day was much as I'd expected. 'I might have known why you'd sent me off to buy a week's supply of rhubarb yoghurt', she groaned, making me feel like Dr. Crippen apprehended on his getaway ship.

She soon saw the funny side, though. 'I wondered how long it would be before you got that gun out', she said. 'I'm surprised you held out so long.'

'Perhaps you shouldn't have done. The strain of pretending it wasn't there has probably cost you a hair or two — and you know you can't afford that.'

'True', I thought, idly caressing my luxuriant hair and searching vainly for the other one!

'Since you've caught us at it', I said cunningly, 'have a shot yourself'.

I handed her the rifle, having loaded it first, and she fired a shot at one of our makeshift targets. After a couple of shots, she soon lost interest, however — supporting my long-held theory that guns and women don't really mix.



It's not always fun! Outdoor target shooter John Whiscombe finds it heavy going!



John Welham's brother Dave — now a champion field target shooter.

Having assured herself that there was no immediate danger to our lives or limbs, my wife returned to the house to grapple with the rhubarb yoghurt while we continued to exercise the Hawk.

Our cat had to be bundled off into the house, of course, where it remains whenever we shoot since it shows an unhealthy interest in the impact point of our pellets.

It would lurk, watching the gun and waiting for the bang, before hurtling like a maniac towards the target — and then standing with an aggrieved expression on its face when the anticipated prey failed to materialise.

Obviously it had to go. No one likes a perforated pussy.

Another problem that we discovered on our first day's shooting was that of backstops. Some airgun authorities recommend a sheet of corrugated iron, a piece of board or Grandad's flannelette nightshirt — remember to remove Grandad first — but I don't think any of these look particularly decorative.

Our final solution was based on First World War entrenching tactics. Nothing stops a pellet quite so well as an enormous mound of earth. If you don't believe me, ask the guys at Bisley.

Enormous mounds of earth can soon be transformed into passable models of Versailles — although my own still looks more like Vimy Ridge since I don't possess green fingers but do have a hereditary dislike of the worm-tickling arts.

Still, this useful, if unattractive, mound has done its job well — and now probably consists of 80 per cent lead.

Our geriatric airgun eventually began to show signs of grievous overwork. Smoke billowed from the barrel after every shot and, like most novice airgunners, we failed to recognise these obvious signs of distress.

We proceeded to encourage them with over-generous doses of 3-in-1 oil, poured up the barrel — which, as we now know, is something one should definitely avoid doing.

One day the inevitable happened. With an ear-splitting crack, the tortured mainspring broke. Our first foray into modern airgunning had come to an ignominious end.

The boys, of course, blamed me. As the self-styled resident expert, I blamed shoddy workmanship and finally, in order to prevent unnecessary strife, we all agreed to blame the cat.

As we dejectedly wandered into our tea of toast and rhubarb yoghurt, I was already working out ways of paying for a more modern gun — perhaps even one with a scope.

Yes, the bug had bitten. I knew that, so far as my family was concerned, airgunning was here to stay. What we didn't yet know was that the new sport of field target shooting was just around the corner.

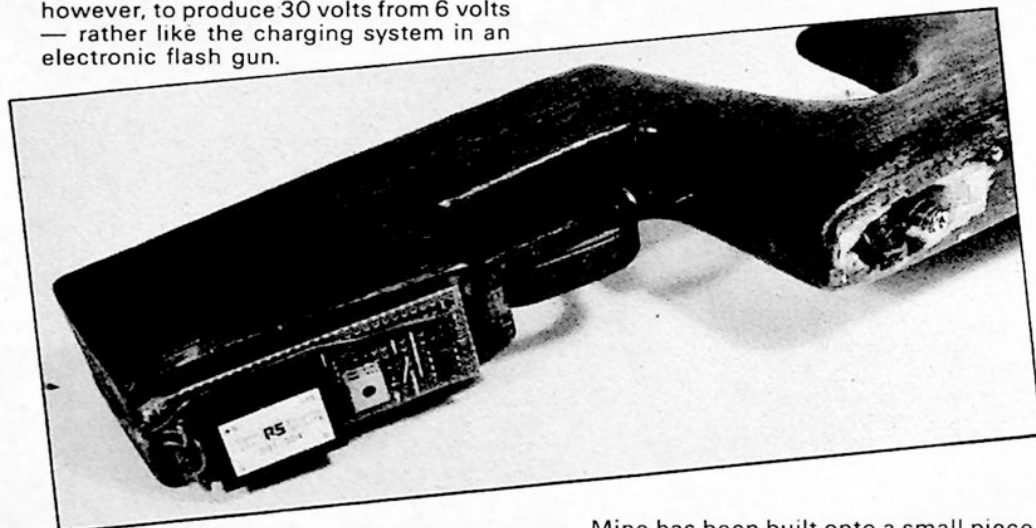
LAST MONTH I dealt with the mechanical side of converting my Sharp Innova so that the trigger would work electrically. But does it really work electrically — or electronically?

Well, the first version I made operated electrically. Thirty-six volts were passed briefly through the solenoid, which then pushed the trigger mechanism.

My final version, which I discussed last month and will continue to talk about this month, needs an electronic circuit, however, to produce 30 volts from 6 volts — rather like the charging system in an electronic flash gun.

Trigger Happy!

The circuit board under the rifle stock.



In order to describe the electronic side, it's probably best if I run through the earlier electric version.

The solenoid is manufactured for continuous operation on 12 volts DC (battery volts). It will certainly stand much higher voltages for brief periods, however.

My rifles wouldn't fire on 12 volts, though, as more power was needed from the solenoid. Your gun might fire with 12 or even 6 volts, however, in which case you won't need the electronic circuit.

In order to gain more power, I put a large capacitor in series with the microswitch and charged it up to 36 volts. I took great care to connect the + of the battery to the + of the capacitor, of course.

To obtain the 36 volts, I used four 9-volt transistor radio batteries. Charging up the capacitor was quick, but not very convenient during shooting.

I fitted the capacitor into the stock and attached a small socket. I plugged in a lead from the battery pack for a couple of seconds during loading, and the capacitor would then remain fully charged.

I seriously considered making a cradle for the rifle to sit in on the table at the firing line, in fact. There would have been electrical contacts in the cradle, which would recharge the capacitor automatically while I placed a pellet in the breech.

I'm not aware of anything in the match shooting rule book that prevents one using an 'off the rifle' power supply, but I eventually decided that an on-board power supply would be more satisfactory.

I put this problem to a very competent colleague of mine, David Smith, who offered to design and make me a charging circuit similar to the one on a photographic flash unit. This is the circuit that you can see here.

used a 4½-volt PX19 battery, intended for Polaroid cameras. This gave me several hundred charges and was easy to fit into the end of the stock.

I'm now extending the stock of my Sharp so that it's a better length for my two sons, both of whom have grown considerably since I made the special target stock over two years ago.

I plan to fit four pencils into this extension. Not only will they be easier to buy in an emergency, but they should hardly ever need replacing.

When the circuit has been built, it must be connected correctly to avoid damage. The red diode will light up as the capacitor charges, and the capacitor should be fully charged in a few seconds.

The red diode has two important functions. First, it warns you that the gun is switched on — and this should save you putting it away while it is still on.

Secondly, it tells you when the capacitor is almost fully charged. As the batteries start to go flat, the charging time will noticeably lengthen — and that will warn you that replacements are due.

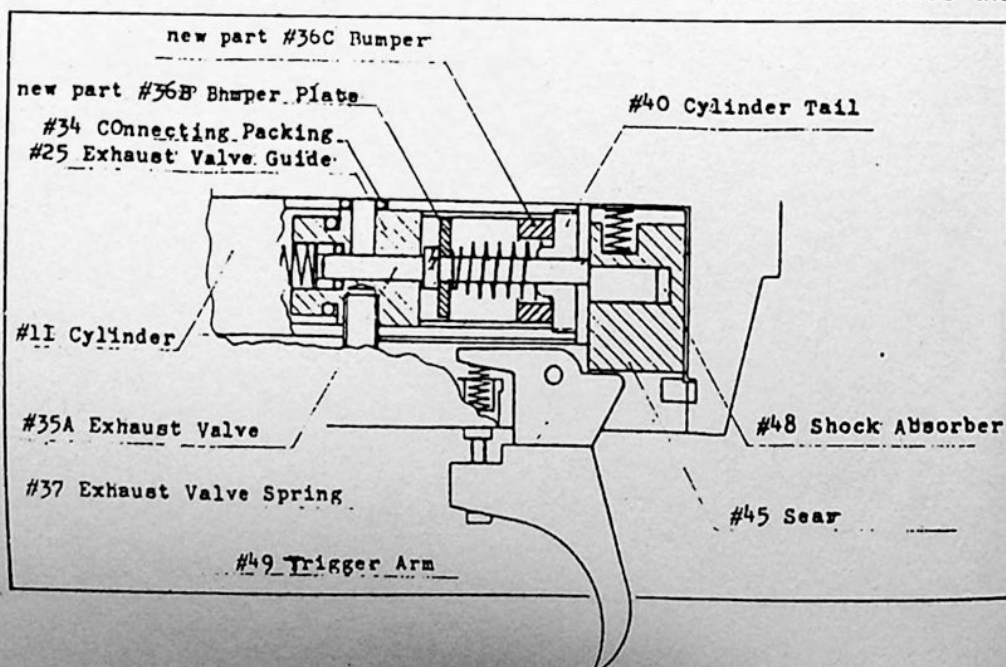
In order to make full use of this diode, you'll need a voltmeter. Adjust VR1 until the diode will not light until there are 28 volts in the capacitor. The full charge on my circuit is 29.5 volts — so, if the red diode is alight, I know that I have plenty of power for the trigger.

I published the 'shopping list' last month, so that impatient DIY enthusiasts among you would be prepared.

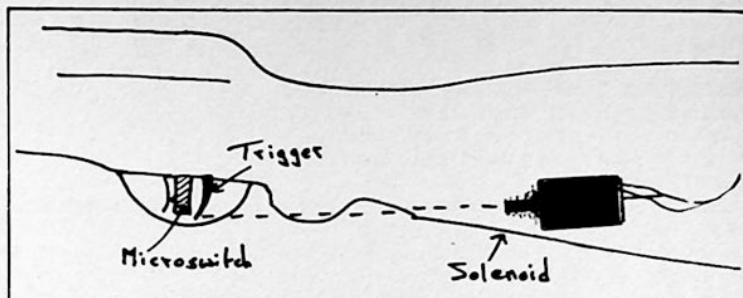
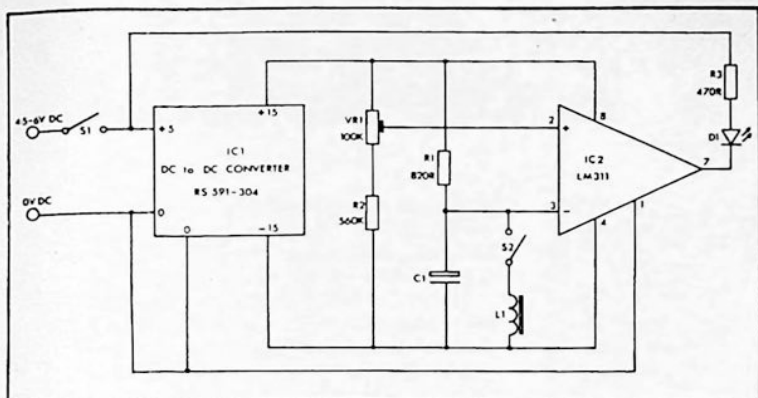
I must also repeat last month's warning. If you think that either the mechanical or electrical sides of this project will prove too difficult for you, seek specialist help.

* * * * *

It is possible that the trigger could be pulled by the solenoid. A solenoid only moves one way — but while one end is pushing, the other end is pulling, of course. If the solenoid is inside the



Make your own electronic trigger with Chris Wright



Left: The electronic charging circuit. Above: Another possible design for the electric trigger. The dotted line represents a string connecting the solenoid to the trigger.

stock, as shown in my sketch, then the string *may* jerk the trigger back.

I emphasise 'may', because I have doubts about some stiff triggers — and it is these very triggers that most shooters will be anxious to improve.

R. S. Components also make a much larger and more powerful 12-volt solenoid. Its catalogue reference no. is 349-709.

There is no reason why the power should be restricted to 30 volts either. For the brief surge of power, 100 volts would probably do no harm.

The capacitor must be rated for the voltage that is being put into it — although it can be rated at a higher voltage, of course. It is likely to explode if too high a voltage is fed in!

If the trigger is lengthened, you will obtain a mechanical advantage — although the movement will be increased. If the movement is too great, the solenoid won't be able to pull over the extra distance — so work out the optimum length, bearing in mind all the benefits and disadvantages.

The microswitch can be fixed just in front of the trigger. It doesn't move, of course, and the small plate in front merely presses on the microswitch, operating the gun.

* * * * *

Electronics wizards among you may consider making a modification to the circuit.

The microswitch is passing quite a heavy current, and in time this will burn out the contacts. Microswitches are quite cheap and easy to replace, however — and a thyristor in the circuit will enable the microswitch to pass a low voltage and low current, prolonging its life indefinitely.

The disadvantage of this is that the capacitor will discharge fully each time, reducing the life of the battery. It might be worth considering, all the same.

When setting up the trigger and carrying out tests when the gun is loaded, do be sure to take great care where the barrel is pointing. It's all too easy to become so involved with the red diode that you forget that a sudden slip of the screwdriver could fire the gun.

Basically, the design is extremely safe. Providing all the connections are properly made, and there are no fraying wires to short out or rub on moving components, the gun cannot fire unless you pull the trigger.

You can drop it, bang it and shake it around in a way that you wouldn't dare do with a conventional light trigger!

You can also dry fire a spring gun. Don't cock it, of course, but leave the charging circuit switched on. Each time you pull the trigger, you will feel the 'clonk' from the moving solenoid.

Below and left: Two designs for the Sharp Innova sear. The original design is on the left.

Pneumatic guns like the Sharp can be dry fired by pumping, thus giving a 'real' feel to things.

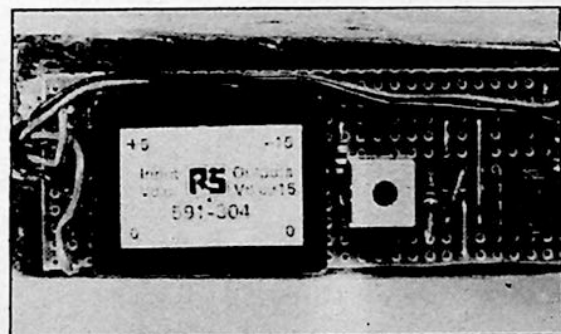
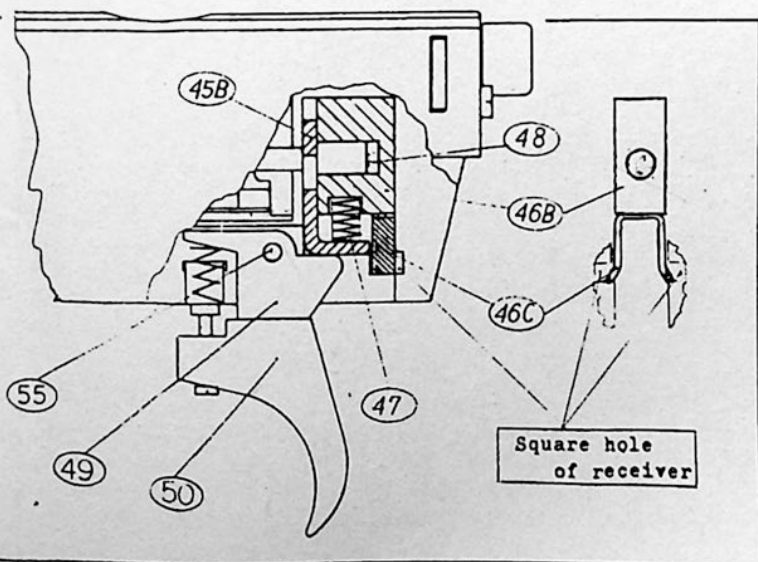
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Finally, I've had a long letter from Mr. Kensuke Chiba, who is the President of the Tokyo Rifle Company that makes Sharp rifles.

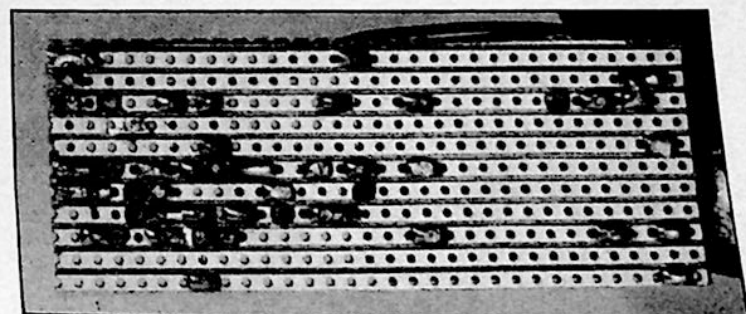
He tells me that my Innova is the early model and that the firing mechanism has now been modified — so have a look at Mr. Chiba's drawings which show both types of mechanism.

I also gather from Mr. Chiba that the Innova will soon have the same sear as the Sharp Ace. I don't see why my modifications shouldn't work with all Innova trigger mechanisms, however — and the main problem centres around getting the solenoid to push down on the sear.

Before starting work, think long and hard just how you intend to achieve this movement. Each piece of linkage loses valuable power, and also extends the amount of travel needed by the solenoid. Too many linkages, or badly made ones, could cause too much slack in the system for the solenoid to be able to operate effectively.



Left: The completed circuit on the veroboard.



Below: The back of the veroboard.

Freddy Dalgety heralds a . . .

Facelift

THOSE OF YOU who visited the 1983 Game Fair in Scotland will have noticed that airgunning has had a facelift! That's to say, our sport now has a new and more respected face!

Besides the *Airgun World* stand, the airgun range and the airgun equipment in Gunmaker's Row, air weapons were more prominent than ever before on the large B.A.S.C. stand, too.

The neat gentleman being inundated with questions from hordes of people aged anything between 10 and 80 on this stand was none other than *Airgun World's* Jim Tyler.

Airgun World and its writers have fought long and hard for the sport to be recognised for what it is — on the range an ultimate test of precision accuracy, and in the field a form of shooting that demands the highest standards of marksmanship, gun knowledge, stalking, camouflage and all the other branches of fieldcraft.

In the vanguard of this effort has been Jim Tyler, who has done much to obtain BASC's support and, with it, the support of other shooters. I was delighted to see that Jim's section of the stand was one of the best attended. That, perhaps, is the proof of the pudding!

Typical of the many conversations that I overheard was one between a group of

people who were watching the gundogs in action.

There was a cast of six people: Grey Hair, who looked well into his seventies; Stout and Thin, two men between 40 and 50; Tartan, a young man in his early twenties; Girl, his girlfriend; and Kammo, a boy of about 15 who wore trousers of that ilk.

Thin: There seem to be a lot more sensible rifles for the rabbits this year.

Grey Hair: Yes. I bought a new German .177 last year. I can't stalk as close as I used to and my old Lincoln isn't much good at over 15 yards.

I wish I hadn't bought the German, though. There's nothing wrong with it, mind, and it gives me at least 15 more yards, but I like the look of that Sirocco.

Tartan: No, you want a Weihrauch. My thumb-hole gives be at least 40 yards.

Girl: Come off it. You're always telling me to keep lower and stalk closer because it isn't sporting to take long shots.

Kammo: Yes, I've got a new record. I pace out all my shots and note how close I get. My last 10 at rabbits average just 18

yards — and only one miss!

Thin: You SAS types will soon be getting close enough to slip a snare over their heads.

Stout: Well, I don't know about that, but there's a different feel about airguns and I like it. I used to go up to a stand and say 'I only want to ask about an airgun . . .' Now I talk about airguns and they're as interested as if I wanted to chat about a fancy sidelock shotgun.

Grey Hair: It's not just at the show, either. Girvin has always thought me an old fool with my airgun. I think in the old days he would have liked to have pinned some of those missing pheasants on me.

Anyway, just two months back he comes up to me in the Post Office and says: 'Sandy, if you want to come my side of the dyke after the rabbits, don't bother to ask. Just come. You might even be able to get rid of those crows'. Five years ago he wouldn't even have passed the time of day with me.

That conversation summed up the feeling at the 1983 Game Fair and the changing attitudes of airgunners — and of other people to them.

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for Airguns

Although many groups and individuals have played important parts, it seems to me that the main driving force has come from *Airgun World*, which has managed to unite the effort.

NARPA have helped many newcomers to start in the right way, too. If you start correctly, you never forget safety and your skill steadily develops.

Jim Tyler, Arthur Shepherd and others have helped new airgunners to understand wildlife and the ways of the countryside, and stalking skill and other fieldcrafts have steadily received more attention.

With the magazine also keeping everyone informed of new developments and new ideas that would be worth developing, equipment has also improved faster in the last five years than ever before.

I live in a remote part of Scotland so I'm far away from much of the airgun activity, but from what I see on my journeys south the next logical move will be to form field shooting groups.

What I have in mind are clubs that offer rabbit, pigeon and pest shooting services in their area. Affiliated to both NARPA and BASC, the clubs could draw on the expertise of NARPA for their training programmes — and of BASC in approaching people like the National Farmers' Union for land over which to shoot.

These clubs would have to abide by certain rules, of course.

They would need to ensure that their members acted responsibly on land where they had permission to shoot. They would need to maintain an open entry to everyone from the district.

They would need to dismiss anyone who behaved badly despite a warning. And they would need to police their area against the type of wildcat airgunner who can harm the sport so easily.

If they did all these things, the area over which the club was permitted to shoot would soon increase — and the reputation of the sport would go from strength to strength.

Clubs like this could begin in quite a small way. If you have permission to shoot over a farm where there is room for a couple of airgunners, for instance, you might benefit — and the sport certainly would — by inviting a friend or two to join you on your outings.

To move on, anyone who hasn't yet seen a copy of the Shooting Sports Trust's useful leaflet entitled *Airgun Law* should try to obtain one from a gunshop without delay.

There is still no good basic book on airgunning in the field which gives a guide to the more complex laws and conventions about shooting rabbits, pigeons and the like. I hope there may be soon.

All the same, BASC's *Handbook of*



Jim Tyler has done much to improve the image of airgunning.

Shooting — The Sporting Shotgun covers so much that is close to airgunning that it is well worth buying.

Indeed, most airgunners will find that it's worth borrowing shooting books from your local library for at least a quick browse. I find that nearly all of them are of some interest, even if they cover a branch of shooting in which I don't participate myself.

Much of the new respect that airgunners have earned has come about through their increased awareness and understanding of others and other people's activities.

These interests cover a wide and often unexpected variety of subjects — such as farming, horticulture, ornithology, botany and so on.

Understanding the farming, horticulture and plants in your locality is sure to improve your understanding of the wildlife.

If you take an interest in other people's hobbies, they usually pay more attention to yours. If they see a modern airgunner showing an interest in wildlife, stalking skilfully and shooting selectively and cleanly, their opinion is sure to change.

The switch in emphasis from power and range to precision and skill is already having an effect — so much so that tomorrow's airgunners are likely to be as important to the rural community and to organisations like the BASC as they already are to the gun trade.

The one area on which we must still concentrate is starting youngsters off on the right foot. The police are still worried about the number of silly airgun accidents that occur each year — but these wouldn't happen if everyone started right.

We must see that they happen less and less in the future in order to ensure that we don't face more and more restrictions as the years go by.

AIRGUN

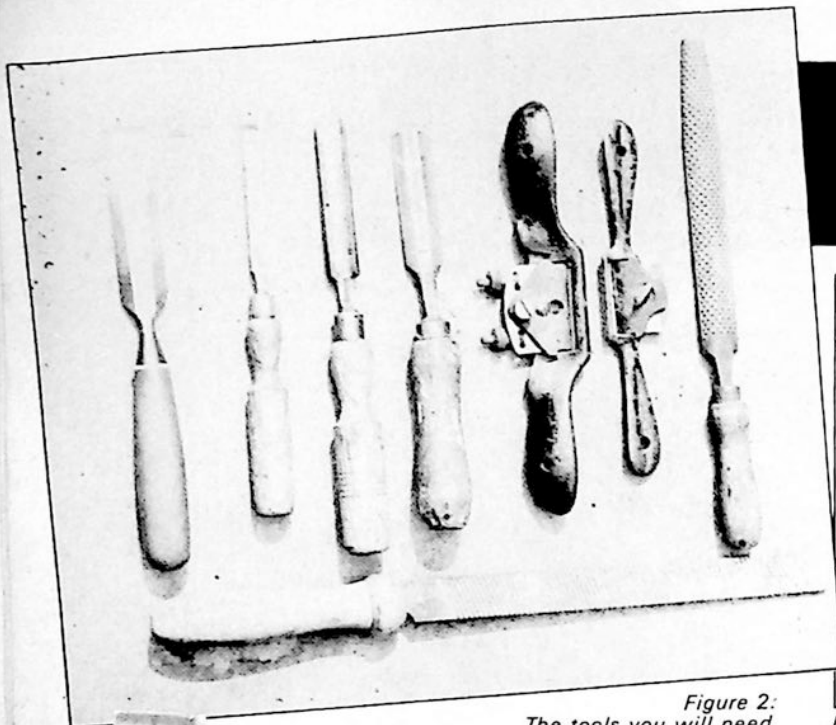


Figure 2:
The tools you will need.



Figure 1: The original stock from Eddie Barber's Diana 55.

MOST AIRGUNNERS would cringe at the very thought of making a pair of pistol grips — let alone a rifle stock!

But I've seen some very fine customised and renovated stocks at various shoots around the country which have been made by airgun enthusiasts with little or no carpentry experience at all.

Stock making is obviously a skilled art, though, and the stock I shall describe how to build in this article is for an old Diana model 55. It's a rare beast, make no mistake, but it looks rather like the Original 50.

The last spare stock for a model 55 left Milbro's Scottish factory five years ago — so I was faced with quite a problem, as you can imagine.

The previous owner of my gun had butchered its stock by lopping off the fore-end, as you can see in *figure 1*, so I had to borrow an original stock from a collector pal of mine before I could go ahead and build a replica.

If you're making a stock to your own design, or even a replacement as I was doing, you shouldn't have any problems provided you have a set pattern for the internal shapes. Carving a stock without a pattern is definitely a job for the experts!

Surprisingly, perhaps, you'll need very few tools for the job. A saw is essential for the basic shaping, however, and a fret saw will save you quite a bit of time.

In *figure 2* you can see the small selection of chisels, an internal and external spoke shave and a good half round rasp that I used. The spoke shaves aren't absolutely necessary, but they'll save you a lot of time and rasping!

Never buy cheap chisels, by the way. You'll do much better to pick up some second-hand ones, usually the older the better, because all the old chisels were made of fine steel and will keep an edge for the duration of the job. A blunt chisel

will ruin the work and make your task intolerable.

A mallet will come in handy, but a heavy piece of flat wood with a crudely fashioned handle will suffice if you want to do things on the cheap.

I made my replacement stock from a wedge of mahogany that cost me just £7. Mahogany is fairly easy to work, reasonably strong and not too expensive. A similar piece of walnut would have set me back £30 or more!

If you don't have a carpenter's vice, you can support the wood with a standard vice so long as you pack its jaws to stop it marking the wood. If your vice's jaws measure less than four inches, then you'll need a couple of blocks of hardwood to aid the grip.

As I pointed out in my recent articles on making small metal parts from a pattern, it's absolutely essential to measure what you're doing constantly. It's all too easy to become carried away with a saw or chisel and end up with a lump of mahogany firewood!

Making a stock is a job that just can't be rushed — but the time you spend on it will prove well worth all the effort you've put in. It will result in a stock that is all your own work, which is extremely satisfying.

No, this Original rifle doesn't have a D-I-Y stock — but you can make your own very attractive stock quite easily.

How do you set about the job? Well, begin by marking out the outline of your pattern on both sides of the wood, leaving a small margin of extra wood.

It's important for the grain of the wood to run roughly lengthwise along the stock, too — so bear this in mind when you're buying your block of wood.

Now, saw carefully along your marked line, keeping the saw dead straight. Then place your stock blank in a vice and hold the pattern next to it — a couple of strong elastic bands will keep it in place.

Carefully mark out the internal patterns, remembering to make detailed notes of the depth of cut needed to accept the body tube. Then turn the wood over and mark out the trigger slot, breech or underlever slot, etc.

Mark out the screw holes next — and you'll find that the various marks will help you get the job into perspective.

You should now place the blank in the vice and support the end of it with a piece of timber (see *figure 3*).

Select a good chisel and begin taking out the rough, using a half round chisel as you get deeper. Remember to keep comparing your work with the pattern all the time.

Figure 4 shows the underlever slot being carefully rifled out with a small,

WORKSHOP

*Making a stock
with
Eddie Barber*

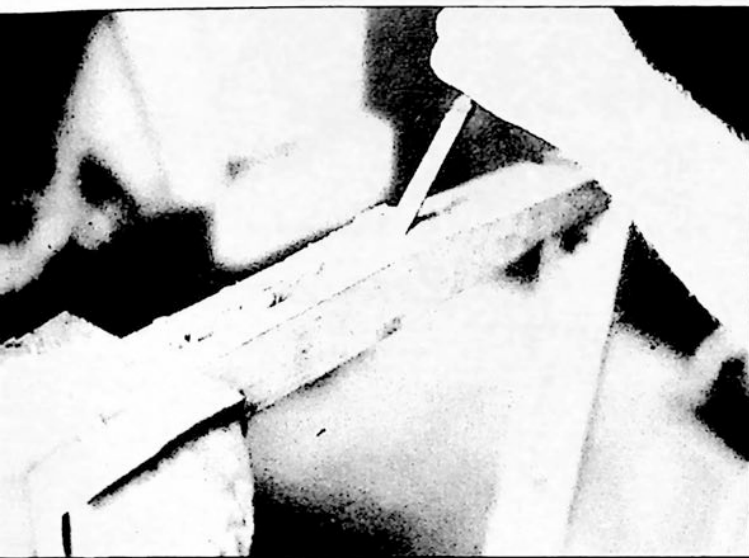
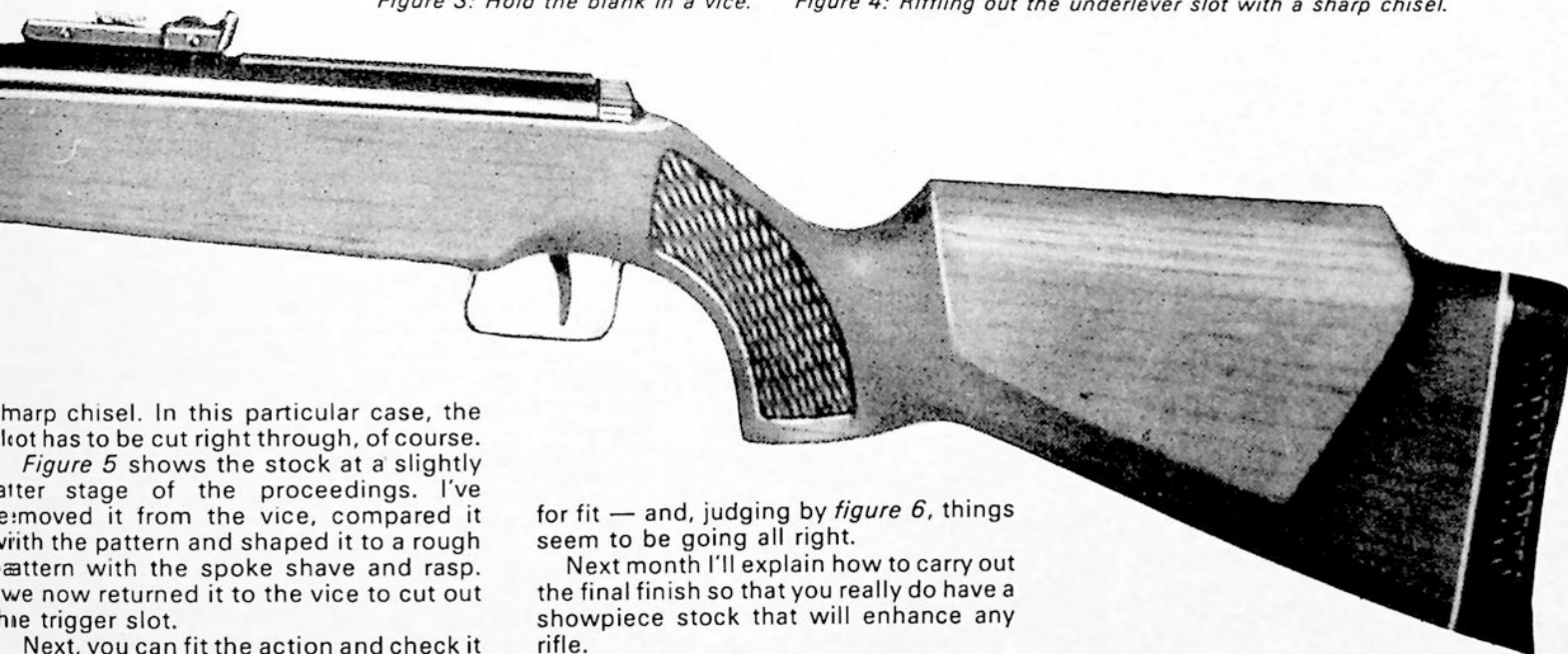


Figure 3: Hold the blank in a vice.



Figure 4: Riffling out the underlever slot with a sharp chisel.



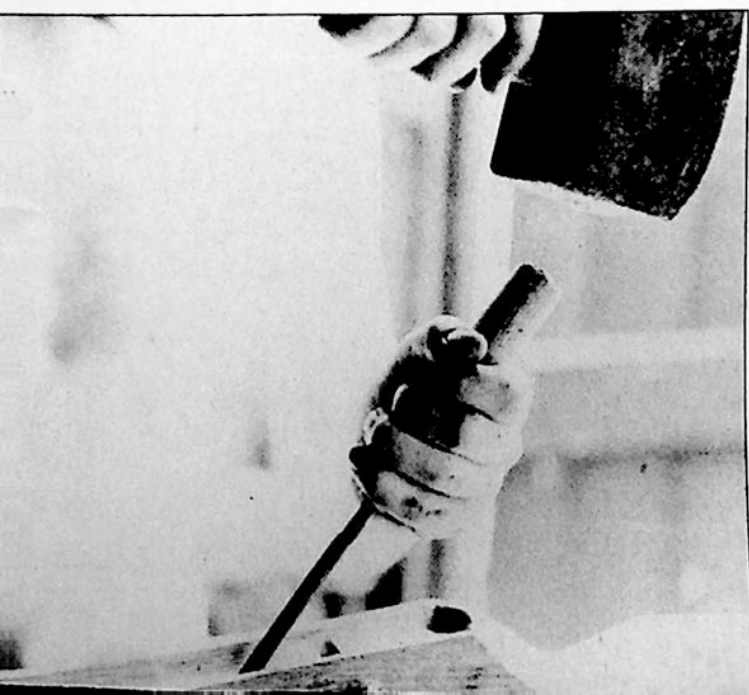
sharp chisel. In this particular case, the slot has to be cut right through, of course.

Figure 5 shows the stock at a slightly later stage of the proceedings. I've removed it from the vice, compared it with the pattern and shaped it to a rough pattern with the spoke shave and rasp. We now returned it to the vice to cut out the trigger slot.

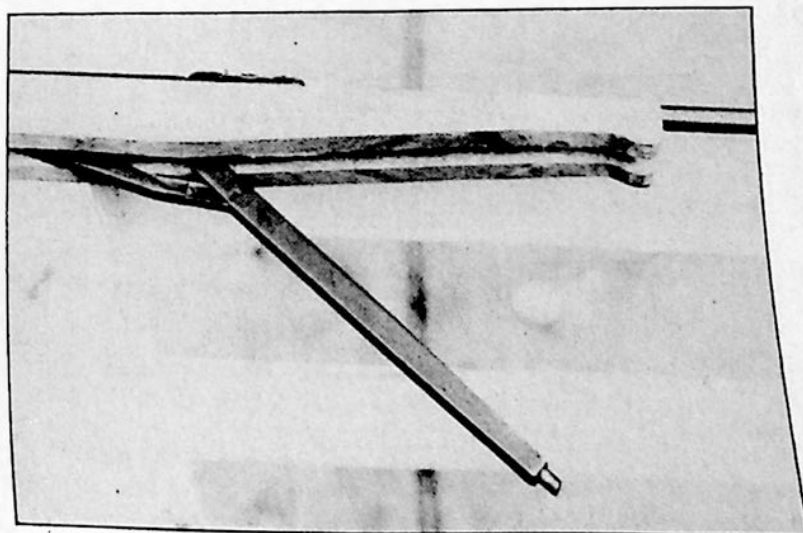
Next, you can fit the action and check it

for fit — and, judging by figure 6, things seem to be going all right.

Next month I'll explain how to carry out the final finish so that you really do have a showpiece stock that will enhance any rifle.



Left. Figure 5: Cutting out the trigger slot. Below. Figure 6: The action has been fitted and things are looking good.



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by
John
Atkins

Cylinder markings
on the Abas Major
No. 1, serial no. 69.

THIS COLUMN has inspired many readers to write fascinating letters over the years, packed with information that helps to build up a more detailed picture of airgun 'antiques'.

That's why this month I plan to feature some of the 'feedback' that I've received from you — although I can only mention a fraction of all the hundreds of letters you've sent me.

I must add here that some of you are still awaiting replies to your queries. I do apologise for any delay — but it's impossible to answer everyone at once, I'm afraid!

Your response to the questions that I've posed in my articles has been magnificent! You've told me many things that I never knew before — and helped to give me a clearer picture of the history of a great many guns.

Take the Abas Major pistol, for instance, which I wrote about in the April 1982 issue. As I said then, these pistols were designed by A. A., A. H. and S. C. Brown of Abas Works, Sand Street, Birmingham 4, in 1944/45.

Mr. R. Woodward sent me some photographs, which you can see here, showing his early Abas Major no. 1. It has the plain walnut grips that you associate with the first models and the serial no. 69.

Like other early pistols, this Abas has the usual sliding button release for the cocking lever at the base of the butt, which you can push to the rear to operate the mechanism.

It also has a separate intercepting sear for the ratchet safety to engage upon. Later models had a spring-loaded catch which self-locked the trigger guard cocking lever into place, and the two sears became a one-piece unit for both safety interception and discharge.

I knew that already, but what came as a surprise to me was that the cocking lever, which you pull out of the front strap of the grip, isn't drilled for a pellet gauge hole and has no stampings on it.

Back in April last year I mentioned that I owned an unfinished Abas Major with the serial no. 1870, and I included a photo of the incomplete components.

Well, Mr. V. Thompson told me that he owned serial no. 1865, which is a finished pistol from what must have been the final batch. It seems to have been assembled in the usual way, but what surprised Mr. Thompson was that the standard of finish was poor with some visible filemarks, and some of the components didn't fit very well.

Since the finish of the blued Abas pistols is usually excellent, Mr. Thompson put forward an interesting theory.

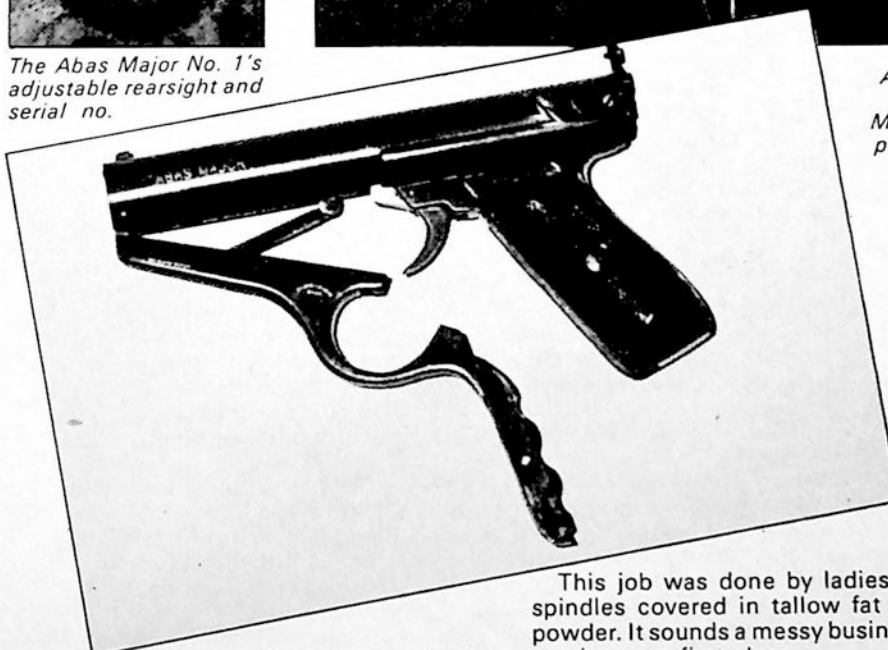


The Abas Major No. 1's adjustable rear sight and serial no.



Above: This early Abas Major has no pellet gauge in the cocking lever.

Photos: R. Woodward.



Left: A later Abas Major, serial no. 1389, with the pellet gauge.

Photo: Caroline Sidders.

This job was done by ladies who used spindles covered in tallow fat and emery powder. It sounds a messy business, but the results were first-class.

Some of the later polishing was done by Messrs. Taylors of New Buildings, Price Street, and their premises are still there today.

Because finishing was so expensive, some of the pistols were enamelled by Rossiter's of the Leopold Street area, who were enamellers to the cycle trade. Most of these guns had a black crackle finish which hid the file marks.

Only one pistol was finished in metallic aluminium. This was only a baked paint finish, of course, so it would eventually have worn off with rough handling. If any collector has this pistol, you should treasure it because the finish makes it a unique gun.

He suggested that the last few pistols might have been assembled by apprentices, in order to leave the factory with a low sales volume because it might not have been worth keeping the assembly line running flat out once it had been decided to stop production.

This wasn't actually the case, however, as I was later to find out.

I was so interested to hear about these two Abas pistols, one made near the start of the production cycle and the other at the very end, that I wrote to Robin C. Brown to ask whether he remembered anything about how the company's pistols were finished.

He did! Mr. Brown told me that the Abas Majors were polished by Messrs. Stokes, who operated from Rose & Crown Yard at Whittall Street, Birmingham.

Continued on page 48



Continued
from page 47

Before the pistols were finished, they were brazed by Mr. J. Robinson, who worked from the Holloway & Norton yard in Vesey Street, off Loveday Street. This yard was later taken over by Skimin.

Mr Robinson was an expert welder and worked as a gunsmith in a workshop at 55 Price Street, carrying out welding work for all the trade until he retired a few years ago. Sadly, he has since died.

I put all the valuable information that I gained from Robin Brown, his father, and uncle, onto my maps of old Birmingham that I'm compiling to show where airgun work was done over the years. I would certainly welcome any further contributions from readers.

Meanwhile, a reader from Birmingham, R. A. Hill of 6 Longshaw Grove, Shard End, Birmingham, B34 7HH, would like to hear from anyone who has any definite information about the ancestry of the Ansonia air rifle and the firm of E. Anson & Co., who operated from Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, around 1903.

Ray Hill is a keen student of airgun history, and he has already done a good deal of research into Anson's history — and I was fascinated to read a copy of his findings so far.

The Ansonia rifle has several features that are similar to those patented by the German firm of Mayer & Grammelspacher in 1901, and this raises the question of whether Anson simply imported the German guns and stamped his own name on them — or whether he copied Jakob Mayer's ideas on his own rifles, thus infringing the patent.

I'd love to know how many of these beautifully built Ansonia rifles were made — and their exact date of manufacture. Perhaps a reader will be able to help us out!

Back in November 1982 I featured the Kynoch Swift air rifle, which was patented by George Hookham in 1906 and first produced in 1907 — so I was delighted to receive a letter and photos from a New Zealand collector, Trevor J. Morris.

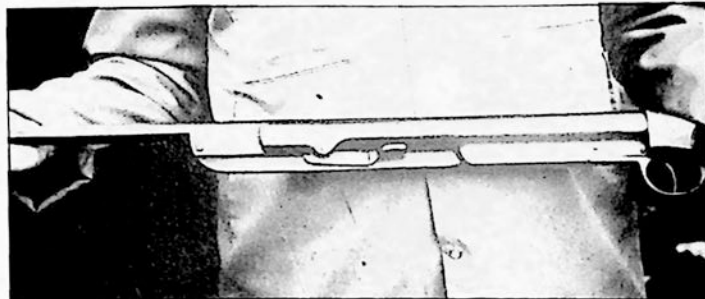
I had said in my article that I was keen to hear from readers who knew of a Swift with a serial no. above 1,000 — and Mr. Morris told me that the gun he knows is numbered 1,039 on the trigger housing block. He has no idea how or when it reached New Zealand, however.

Despite the fact that it is obviously very rough and looks rather decrepit, this Swift still fires — and is quite powerful, too.

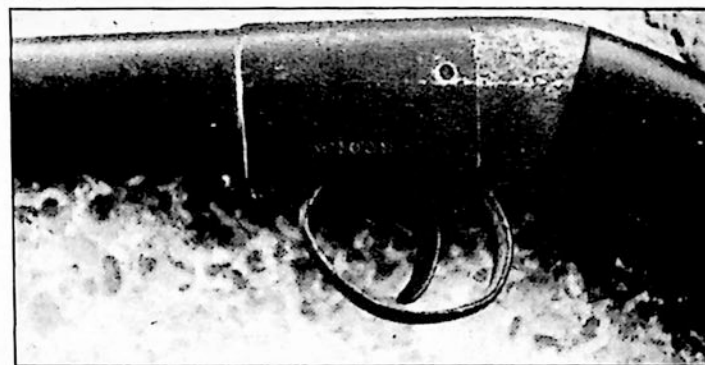
The photos show that a previous owner drilled holes in the cocking link and elsewhere, suggesting that he was either a Meccano enthusiast or, more probably, that he had tried to reduce the weight of the massive breech area on this rifle.



Malcolm Parrish with
the Ansonia, serial
no. 06 — or,
possibly, 90.



Above: A close-up of the Ansonia detent lever, stamped 'Anson's Bolt Action'. Below: The trigger housing block of the Kynoch Swift, serial no. 1039. Photos: R. A. Hill.



Thanks to Mr. Morris, we now know that more than 1,000 Kynoch Swifts were made — but I still don't know where. Can you give me any clues?

Moving on to the January 1983 issue, I told how I had spent a long time searching for a BSA air rifle trigger adjustment spanner combined pellet seating tool.

I soon had an interesting letter from R. G. White, who had obtained one of these implements along with a 1912 BSA Improved Model D. This button release type air rifle in .177 calibre was serial no. 58041.

Accompanying them was a booklet that I hadn't seen before called *How To Handle The B.S.A. Air Rifle*. This contains a series of photographs showing a man in a flat cap cocking and loading a side-button release catch underlever model that must have been made from 1911 to 1914.

What intrigued both Mr. White and I was that figure 6 in the booklet shows a most unusual trigger block assembly. It is reminiscent of the unusual hanging trigger block fitted to the Lane's Musketeer airgun that housed Harry Greener's patent trigger mechanism — which I described in the February 1982 issue.

Examining figure 5 more closely, however, it seems that the trigger mechanism is fixed to the air chamber by two semi-circular side plates.

I'm quite certain that the photos show that the demonstration BSA rifle is fitted

with a prototype trigger mechanism rather than a standard one.

Some illustrations in *The Complete Air-Gunner*, a paperback published in 1907, show the same man demonstrating the same gun with the odd trigger block — but at this time, of course, the pictures of the underlever show the bayonet-type ends that were currently in fashion.

I suspect that the same series of photographs used in *The Complete Air-Gunner* have also been used in Mr. White's booklet — with some pictures substituted to show the updated underlever release.

It must have been more economical to use some of them, and to retouch some of the old photos, rather than produce a completely fresh set for the booklet. This proves that the paradoxical trigger block was made before 1907, when R. B. Townshend's *The Complete Air-Gunner* was published.

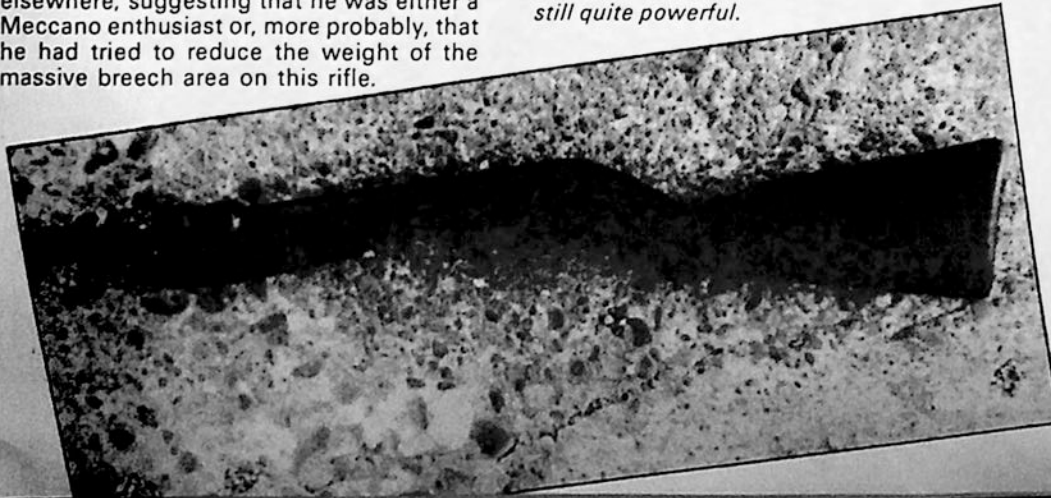
BSA had experimented with a good many trigger designs before this period, and their patent no. 15904 of 1905 shows several mechanisms to prevent accidental discharge of a spring rifle.

Included among them, strangely, is a direct copy of Harry Greener's patent, no. 9644 of 1903, that was already fitted to



The massive breech jaws of the Kynoch Swift. Photos: T.J. Morris.

This old Swift is
still quite powerful.



Lane Musketeers! As Dennis Commins said in his patent articles in *Guns Review*, it's very odd that the Patent Office passed this duplication.

Neil Brookes, who sends me lots of useful airgun information, tells me that he knows of a .25 calibre Lane Musketeer. Until I heard from him, I hadn't realised that they were made in no. 3 bore as all the guns I'd seen had been in .177, or no. 1 bore.

I'm wondering if the .25 version has a longer than normal compression tube to provide the extra air to push the larger pellet — and Neil has promised to check this for me when he next sees the gun.

My article on the Lane's Musketeer also featured a .177 Lane's Bango bullet. You may recall that this looked like an ordinary wasted lead pellet with a copper core that formed a long pointed head and a lining to the skirt, which was filled with an explosive substance.

Thanks to another reader, I've now been able to examine a .25 Bango bullet — which would fit the Musketeer that Neil described.

The .25 bullet bore no resemblance at all to the .177 version. The .25 Bango is spherical with a milled edge — and because of its size, shape and grey lead colour, it looks rather like the woodlice that you find in the garden!

The random milling around the circumference of the bullet would have ensured a good fit in all .25 barrels, because I imagine it would have taken up any slackness in the bore.

These .25 Bango bullets came in a box with a yellow label, the lettering on the top of which read: 'Lane's Patent No. 13069. Bango. Regd. No. 274276. Air Gun Bullets. 50. No. 3 size'.

There was some more wording on the back of the box label. These read: 'These Air Gun Bullets, when fired against a hard surface, produce a sharp report. In addition to the extra pleasure they add to ordinary target practice, they may be used for scaring obnoxious birds and other undesirable visitors from the garden without causing bodily injury. To be kept dry'.

The side panels of the box were used to advertise other Lane's products. 'Makers of the celebrated Perfect Bullets' was written on one side, and 'Lane's Patent "Rotary" Bullets' on the other. The opening end panel is marked 'Made in England'.

I was extremely tempted to shoot one of these exploding bullets in the interests of science — but I resisted the temptation in case the owner has counted how many were in the box!

I don't know how many different types of Bango bullet were made, but I doubt whether a round version of the .177 type would be big enough to hold sufficient explosive to make an audible bang. A spherical no. 1 bore version might have been made, though, as well as the long copper pointed type.

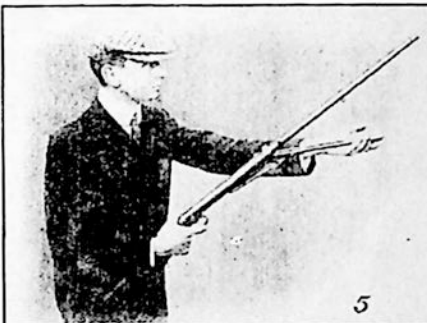
The photo you can see here of the airgun that looks like a Colt .56 calibre revolving percussion rifle of 1857 has been sent to me by Albert Leonard, who wanted to know what it was.

It works perfectly and all its parts have the number 11 stamped on them. It has a break load action and the component that looks like the hammer on a firearm is actually the barrel release and locking device. When you press it, the rearsight slides backwards to release the barrel.

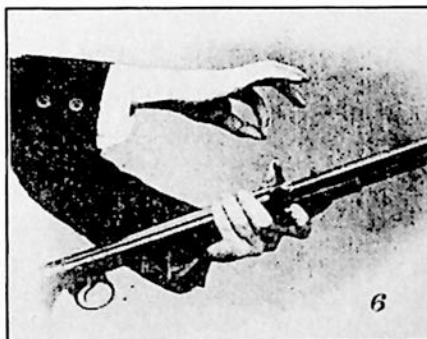
The ornate cocking action beneath the barrel acts as a cam on a spring-loaded rod



4. Compress the spring to the fullest extent: this will cock the rifle. Under NO circumstances should the trigger be touched during this operation.



5. Return lever to original position, using palm of hand only. Do NOT allow the fingers to come between lever and barrel.



6. Raise breech plug lever with thumb of left hand, and drop pellet (round nose down) into pellet hole with thumb and forefinger of right hand. NEVER charge the rifle before compressing the spring.

These drawings from a pre-World War I BSA catalogue show a strange trigger block not known on any production BSA air rifles. Courtesy R.G. White.

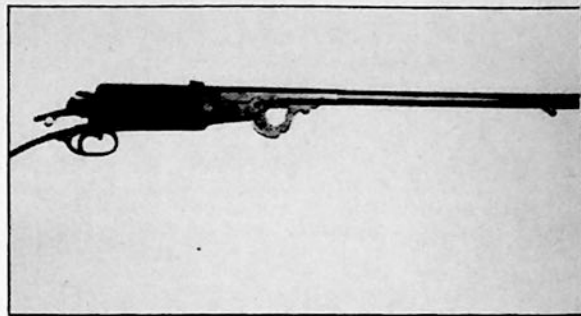
that travels through the piston chamber, pushing the piston back to engage the piston assembly.

This cocking system is a variant of the type known as a 'push-lever lock' that was designed in Germany about 1905. A picture of a gun with another version of this arrangement was shown in the March 1983 issue.

Mr. Leonard tells me that the photo doesn't do his gun justice, because it's a most attractive weapon — albeit very heavy. This may be because the stock is missing, though, which makes it difficult to judge how the complete gun would have handled.

I couldn't identify the gun positively to Mr. Leonard, but Harvey featured a very similar weapon in the April 1979 issue.

This was fitted with three concentric mainsprings within the short compression tube and had a stamped mark like an



The action and barrel of a continental push-lever lock airgun. Photo: A. Leonard.

engraving flourish that obscured the original mark — which could have been a bow and arrow with the letters PAFF above the word Brevette, indicating that the gun might have originated in France.

Its stock looks like the type fitted to early Flobert rifles and old Belgian .410 shotguns with a chequered pistol grip.

It was also of the 'push-lever lock' type, but it didn't have the interestingly shaped cocking piece beneath the barrel. Other known specimens have the letters JS stamped near the serial number.

The only patent drawing I can trace which looks anything like these guns was granted to Oskar Will of Zella St. Blasii, Germany, back in 1896. This shows a similar shaped gun, but with an ordinary break barrel cocking link rather than the push-lever lock.

Maybe someone can help Mr. Leonard? In the meantime I can only say that his gun seems to be basically a German design, possibly copied in France or Belgium, and almost certainly used as a low-powered gallery gun.

In the April 1983 issue I touched on the subject of degreasing solvents for cleaning collectable airguns before you try to re-blue them. Some old guns used to be lubricated with all sorts of disgusting oils and greases in the days before modern lubricants were invented.

A knowledgeable reader, Mr. E. Kelly, has sent me a vast amount of information about degreasing, which seems to be quite a science in itself.

Apparently there are two kinds of soil — polar, (water soluble) and non-polar (grease and oil). Alcohols will remove polar soil but aren't very effective on greases, while the chlorinated hydrocarbons such as trichloroethylene will remove non-polar soil but are of little use on polar soils.

The acetone related solvents (cellulose thinners) cope well with both — and soil from the hands includes both groups.

I won't try any more amateur re-blueing attempts until I've had time to study this information and learn more about this complex subject. There certainly seems to be more to it than just rubbing your gun over with white spirit!

Finally, my desert island yarn (May 1983 issue) provoked a letter from Colin Nunn, who suggested that I should have taken a blowpipe on my survival expedition.

Mr. Nunn spent four years in the jungles of Indonesia and has given me his six-page illustrated study of the blowguns which are still manufactured there and used by the native Dyak population.

Although much has been written about blowpipes down the years, I was still fascinated to hear about these native marksmen and their shooting skills.

The B.A.S.C. Column



CLUBS

Meetings at Markyate

Young Glenn Pattenden looks set for a successful career in outdoor target shooting. He upset all the odds during the Colne Valley Field Shoot at the Essex Country Fair in July by finishing third in the long range competition.

Shooting with his .22 calibre Feinwerkbau Mk. I, Glenn, who is only 10, trailed runner-up Mike Isaac and the eventual winner Ian Law by just one point. Glenn also took the junior award.

The long range even finished with a thrilling double shoot-off between Law and Isaac, from the Markyate club. It included a standing shot at 40 yards before Ian Law clinched the first prize of a Webley Vulcan, presented by Emson & Son of Earls Colne.

Ian Law shot with his favourite Weihrauch Venom 80 and scored 19 ex 20. Isaac used a .177 calibre Feinwerkbau Sport.

Barry Jackson took the trophy for the highest score by a Colne Valley member, while the ladies' prize went to Anne Easy, who beat Anne Crawford into second place after another shoot-off in difficult conditions.

The clays speed event — a unique competition where shooters have to shatter as many clays as they can in 60 seconds — was won by Austin Bannett with six hits. Glen Catterill was runner-up with four.

The dump shoot was won by Brian Patient, who scored a full house with his new .22 Theoben Sirocco.

The long range event at Markyate's June field shoot provided a thrilling finish, too.

Nine men lined up in the shoot-off for first place. The eventual winner of the tense 35- and 50-yard final was Dave Horswell of Bristol, closely followed by Andy Gray and Dave Welham.

The Open Shoot was won by Clive Welham who scored 19 ex 20 on the metal silhouette knockdown targets. Dave Welham was runner-up and Brian Fraser-Newstead finished third.

Another 19 ex 20 gave Mark Hicks the Club Championship — and Welham and Fraser-Newstead once again had to be content with second and third places respectively.

Alison Rance won the club's Junior Championship, beating her brother Colin and Dawn Burke in the process. The Ladies' trophy went to Fran Rance, with Janet Reid second and Rita Richards third.



The impressive BASC stand at the Game Fair.

A FIELD TARGET shoot has been arranged at Northamptonshire Smallbore Shooting Association's range at Sywell, near Wellingborough, on October 1.

It promises to have something for everyone, with events for both beginners and more experienced airgunners. A number of different stands will be run by experienced small-bore shooters.

This is believed to be the first field target shoot of its kind in the Northants area, and the proceeds from the shoot will be shared

between the organisers and the County Association.

The BASC's sporting air rifle display and coaching stand proved a great attraction during the Town & Country Festival at the National Agricultural Centre in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, at the end of August.

The stand is designed to promote the BASC's policy of responsible airgun ownership, and it furthers this cause by visiting all the major country sports fairs around the country.

Once again a number of airgunners joined the BASC and as the air rifle shooting membership increases, so will the Association's efforts to promote the sport.

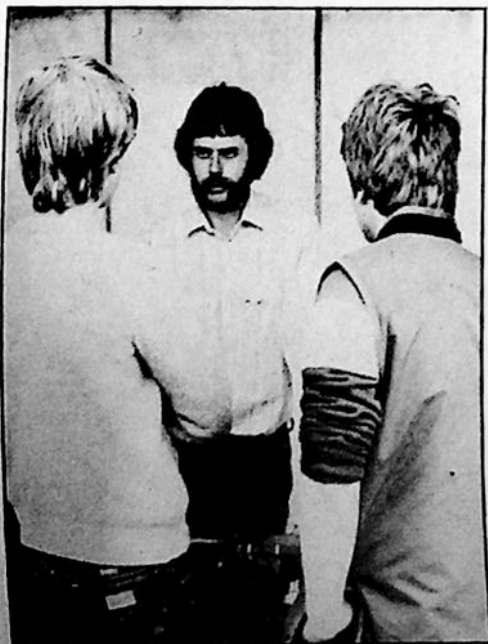
The airgun range, sponsored by *Airgun World*, proved a big attraction at this Fair, too.

The BASC would also like to thank *Airgun World* writer Jim Tyler and his enthusiastic assistant, 16-year-old Norman Huntbach, for giving their time and advice on sporting air rifle shooting at the BASC's stand during the Game Fair at Strathallan Castle in Scotland.

Although this year's Scottish Game Fair failed to attract as many people as some of the events in England in recent years, the BASC's advisory tent was hectic throughout the three days.

Many airgunners joined the Association at the Game Fair, and numerous club secretaries made enquiries about club affiliation, too.

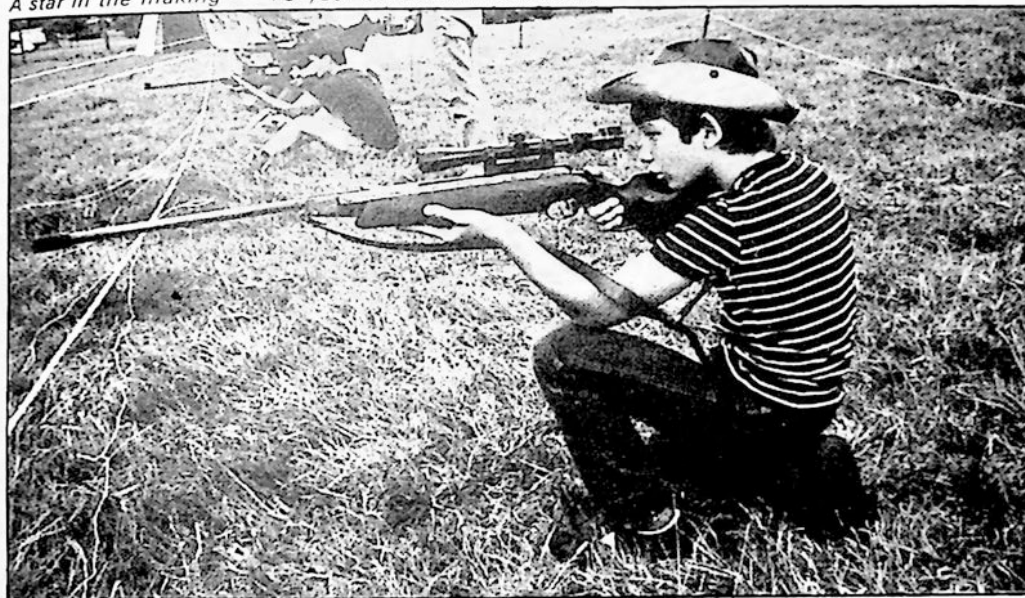
Left: Jim Tyler chats to a couple of young airgunners.



SPECIAL

Indoor and outdoor shooting news

A star in the making — 10-year-old Glenn Pattenden.



A helping hand for a youngster.



The prize-winners at Colne Valley's field target shoot.

Go for Gold

The Guild of WeaponsMasters' 'Go for Gold' competition was organised by David Bucktrout, who has recently left the Guild to join the International Postal Shooting Organisation.

RESULTS. Group 1: 1. G. Bucktrout, 2. N. Wallace, 3. M. Friend. Group 2: 1. A. Hake, 2. M. Wilson, 3. R. Hills. Group 3: 1. D. Glaister, 2. F. Grocock, 3. A. Howls. Group 4: 1. K. Whiley, 2. G. Middleton, 3. R. Jennings. Ladies: 1. B. Bexley, 2. P. Dawe, 3. P. Wheaton.

Pope Wins at Stourvale

Stourvale Woodsmen staged a successful outdoor shoot, sponsored by BSA and the BASC, at their Gornal ground on August 14.

The shady woodland provided a natural setting for the 30 knockdown targets in the hunter competition, which was won by Steve Pope with a useful 29 ex 30. That gave him first prize of a BSA Airsporter 'S'.

Mark Bonham received the re-entry award, with Jane Hancock claiming the ladies' prize and Stewart Hancock the juniors' award. Demonstrating that this result was no fluke, Stewart also won the air pistol darts competition.

Left: Ivan Hancock with his Sharp Innova Special. Right: The prize-winners at Stourvale Woodsmen's shoot.

Autumn Field Shoot

The Jubilee Woodsmen ARC are to hold an autumn field shoot on October 2 at the Market Field, near the Hazelbrush Cafe, just off the A64, six miles east of York.

There will be a rapid rabbit silhouette shoot plus long range rifle and pistol events. The entry fee for the silhouette shoot is £1, and 50p for the other competitions.

The shoot is being sponsored by Bulmer's Gunsmiths of York. For more details contact Ian Waghorn of 50 Stone Riggs, Stockton on the Forest, York, (tel: York 400162).

Richard North and Richard Maiden won the fast pairs event, scoring a remarkable six hits in 13.7 seconds. North proved that fast, accurate shooting was his speciality by winning the timed decoy competition, too.

Peter Little, alias the 'Long Ranger', triumphed in the distance event over 25, 35 and 45 yards, with Dave Morrison second and Richard North third.



Patient Winner

When leading outdoor shooter Brian Patient bought the May issue of *Airgun World* at his local Essex gunshop, he never dreamed it would help him to win one of Britain's most sought-after air rifles.

Brian entered the competition for the fabulous Theoben Sirocco — and won first prize!

'It is the best 75p I've ever spent', said Brian, who won a Theoben Deluxe and marvellous Tasco scope.

After sighting-in his prize rifle, Brian entered his first field target shooting competition to gain some experience — and won!

Brian took first prize in the dump competition at the Colne Valley Shoot at the Essex Country Fair, beating Ian Law in a shoot-off after scoring 16 ex 16.

Liverpool Open

Liverpool AR & PC are to hold an open 10-Metre shoot on November 5 and 6.

Competitions for both air rifles and pistols will be held over 40-shot courses which have to be completed within 90 minutes.

Contact club secretary P. Caunce at 23 Prescott Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, L7 0LA, (051-263-6524), for further details.

Moorpool Open

Moorpool AR & PC are to hold an open three positional shoot at the Ladywood Community Centre, Birmingham, on November 6.

The entry fee for the 6-yard event, with 10 scoring shots and five sighters in each position, is £1.50 for individuals. There will also be competitions for pairs, teams of four, junior pairs and junior teams of four.

There will be prizes to third place in the seniors, ladies, adults and junior sections.

Contact Mrs S. Preece at 13 The Circle, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9EE, or Mrs J. Holder on 021-427 7134 for further details.

Events at Thirsk

Thirsk AWC are to hold shoots at Felixkirk Shooting Grounds on October 2 and November 6.

Both competitions will start at 10.30 a.m. and the events will include a vermin shoot, plus long range rifle and pistol contests.

Entry for the vermin shoot is 50p, and it will cost only 30p to take part in the other two events. A quick shoot on the practice stand is 20p.

Targets at Morpeth

Morpeth ARC is the latest airgun club to open in Northumberland.

Aimed principally at indoor target shooters, the club will also play a big role in promoting airgun safety in the area.

Contact the organisers, H. James or J. Hunter, c/o Morpeth YMCA, Dark Lane, Morpeth, (Morpeth 512332), for more details.

Indoor Target Series

Calling all target shooters! Don't forget to enter the series of 12 target competitions being sponsored by *Airgun World* this winter.

There will be gold, silver and bronze medal prizes in each of four classes — for individuals, juniors, ladies and teams of four — and the entry fee is just £1.50 per shoot.

Competitions will be held at both 6 yards and 10 metres at every event.

The first shoot in our series is at Glenrothes, Scotland, on October 2, and the second at the Copley Sports Centre, Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester, on October 23.

Entry forms and full details can be obtained from Terry Vickery at NARPA, 44 High Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (tel: Bridgnorth 4855).

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177 Cleaning Kit (red, mop, brush)	£3.20	Beeman Mainspring Compound	£2.75
Caseys Re-blueing Kit	£7.25	Beeman Metalophylic oil	£1.45
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E17 Pr. front stock screws. F Butt plate & screws. Q Trigger guard. H Rear guard screw. B Front guard screw. P Trg mech. complete. M Rear sight as fitted. M Foresight as fitted. J Foresight guard. E Underlever & catch. N Underlever axis bolt. K Cocking link. K Cocking link pivot. B Piston ass. complete. N Piston head unit. L Outer mainspring. K Inner mainspring. K Pellet delivery ass. P Cylinder end cap. K	Breech seal. C BSA METEORS Standard stock. E19 Super stock. E24 Trigger guard & screw. J Fore-end stock screws. C Cylinder only. X Pellet delivery ass. P Cocking link assembly. N Trigger mechanism. N Barrel only. Z Barrel latch & spr. H Barrel axis pin. C Barrel latch pin. C Breech seal. B Piston ass. complete. B Piston head unit. B Piston ring only. B Rear sight as fitted. P Foresight as fitted. L Mainspring. K Mainspring guide. H Recoil pad. U D/L sling swivels. U	Merc S axis bolt ass. F Rear sight as fitted. P Foresight as fitted. L Mainspring. L Trigger housing. E25 Trigger. 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M Premier sear spring. C Jnr piston head unit. K Mainspring. L JAGUAR Rear sight as fitted. P Foresight as fitted. B Piston washer unit. L Set trigger pins. C Trigger spring. A Sear. M Trg spring. B Trg spring. B Breech seal. B Trigger spring. B Breech seal. B Trigger spring. B Mainspring. K Fr. stock screws. G Breech seal. B HAWKS (see model) 1 piston washer. F 2 safety. J 2/3 trigger guard. K 2/3 fr. guard screw. C 2/3 r. guard screw. A 2/3 fr. stock screws. G 2/3 sear. K	3 trigger. L Trigger adj. screw. B 2/3 trigger spring. B 2/3 trg/sear spring. A 2/3 trigger pin set. F 2/3 piston rings. M 2/3 rearsight ass. T 2/3 Foresight unit. M 2/3 Foresight guard. G 2/3 barrel axis pin. C 2/3 barrel stop pin. C 2/3 barrel stop pin. C 2/3 barrel latch ass. K HURR/TYPH/TEMP. Pair gnp plates. M Pair gnp screws. C Rear sight as fitted. S Foresight guard. D Cocking link ass. P Fore-end cover. K Barrel latch ass. M Mainspring. K Piston ass. complete. P Piston washer only. H Breech seal. A Trigger. 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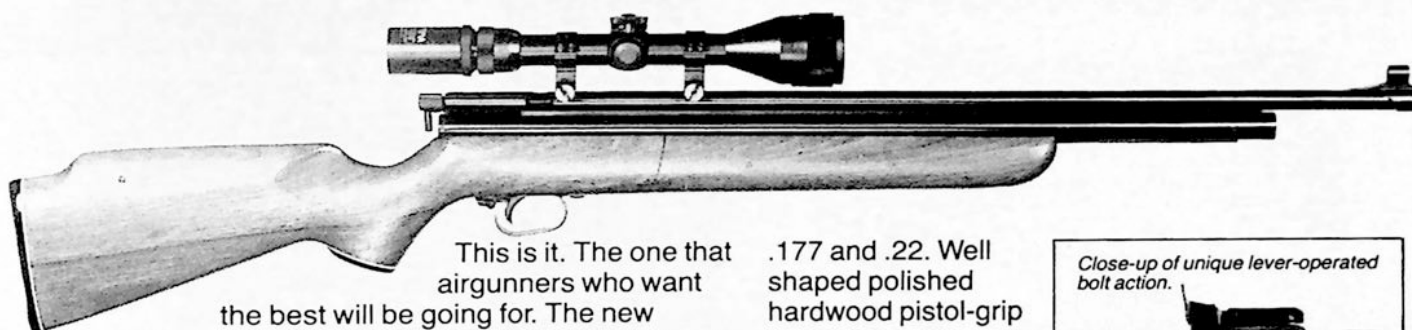
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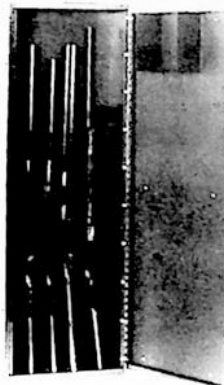
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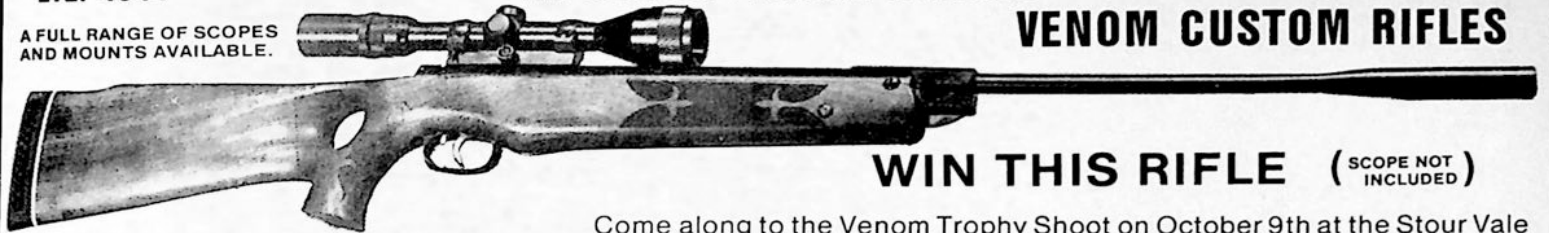
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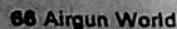
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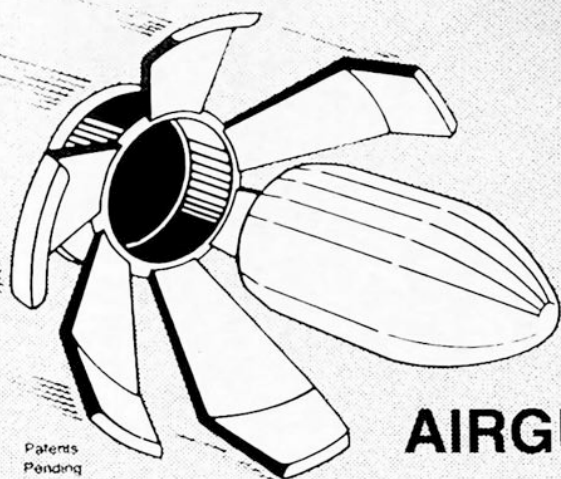
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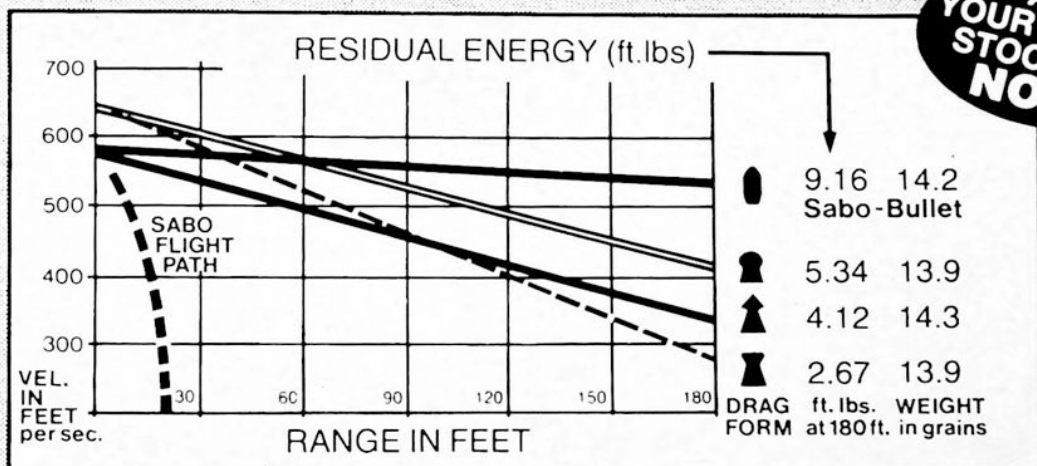


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This graph shows the sub-sonic drag effect on velocity

Bullets outperform pellets

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67 80 Air News (3)

Tasco Repeats Championship Win!

Once again, The British Field Shooting Championship is won with a Tasco FM Parallax-Correcting Scope.

Congratulations to Richard Welham of Medway Valley AC who scored 20 points for an outright win.

Introducing the revolutionary FM Range: Matt Black, UV-Coated, Fully Focusing Scopes

For the past three decades, Tasco have produced riflescopes of the highest quality combining new technology with the latest production techniques. A combination that offers the sportsman quality of the highest degree, coupled with true value for money.

Extensive research and development has enabled Tasco to produce a range of riflescopes to meet each individual shooter's requirements, with particular attention being paid to the air weapon hunter who invariably hunts his quarry in low light conditions and therefore requires optics of the highest quality.

Tasco's new F.M. models are a tribute to their constant search for perfection, each model in the new

F.M. range features ultra violet coated lens, rubber windage and elevation adjusters, rubber edged eyepiece, matt black non-reflective finish and is waterproof, fogproof and shockproof. To this, Tasco have added a focusing objective lens which allows the shooter to completely eliminate parallax, thereby ensuring total precision for shot after shot adding a new dimension in riflescope versatility.

Tasco's unfailing knowledge in the quality of their riflescopes is emphasized by their no questions asked, 10 year guarantee.

That's some claim, but don't just take our word for it - call your local dealer and test a Tasco today.



663-FM 4 x 32

For many years, the 4 x 32 has been the most popular scope with air weapon and rimfire shooters as it offers a combination of fine optics and value for money.

648-FM 4 x 40 O/V

The 4 x 40 O/V wide angle scope increases the shooter's field of view by a massive 25% over standard models. This, coupled with 40mm objective lens, gives distinct advantages where sharp shooting is required.

694-FM 3-9 x 50

Tasco's top model incorporates all the desirable features you would expect from scopes costing 6 times as much and can only be described as the last scope you will ever need to buy.

658-FM 2.75 x 40

A fixed power scope that is fast becoming a favourite with serious airgunners. The low magnification does not exaggerate gun shake and has been selected on countless occasions for military use.

615-FM 1.75-5 x 40

This scope has proved itself to be by far the most popular low power zoom on the market, as it offers the serious airgunner alternative magnification for virtually every eventuality.

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